

BRIEF HISTORY OF
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS

- Nov./'77: 60 Church Utility Committee members met with Terre Haute Gas Co. representatives on minimum rate issue.
- Dec./'77: Utility Committee meets with Indiana Public Counselor to discuss minimum rates. They become virtually eliminated.
- March/'78: Highland Neighborhood Association is first neighborhood group formed. 60 persons begin efforts on local housing, streets and drainage, traffic issues.
- April/'78: 3rd-13th Street Homeowners Association is formed to tackle street and drainage, traffic issues. Representatives from Department of Redevelopment call it largest neighborhood meeting held in city.
- May/'78: Indian Acres Neighborhood Association formed on issues of traffic, streets and zoning.
- Vigo County Citizens Action organizes business, civic, farmer and neighborhood coalition that seeks Public Service Commission field hearing in Terre Haute.
- June/'78: 1,000 persons attend largest Indiana Public Service Commission hearing ever held. Moved to Hulman Civic Center. Finally, \$20 million is cut from original 19% electric rate request.
- July/'78: Near Northside Neighborhood Association is formed. 45 persons select run-down housing issues as key problem. Mayor William Brighton addresses his first neighborhood meeting.
- Aug.
Sept./'78: Neighborhood organizations continue to win local improvements in street repairs, condemned housing, drainage site changes, traffic studies and safety and so forth.
- Oct./'78: Terre Town Neighbors Together formed to work on school safety problems.
- Nursing Home Action Committee invites speakers from Indiana Board of Health to discuss nursing home inspections and certification procedures.
- Nov./'78: Northside groups seek Dep't of Redevelopment "Housing Hearing Day" to adequately address housing problems in older neighborhoods.
- Indian Acres Neighborhood Association wins pledge from their councilman to be informed of zoning changes in their area.

Nov./'78: Nursing Home Action Committee meets with State Nursing Home Ombudsman from Indiana Commission on Aging. 45 persons learn that a nursing home hotline is operated by the West Central Indiana Economic Development District (WCIEDD).

Dec./'78: Vigo County Citizens Action neighborhood leaders travel to Bloomington, IN to provide assistance to Monroe County group.

Jan./'79: Public hearings on Community Development Block Grant funds begin.

Vigo County Citizens Action develops Indiana State University course in skills of community organization. First time such a skill is offered as part of "Social Work" curriculum at I.S.U.

Feb./'79: 50 persons attend C.D. hearings at Department of Redevelopment. Neighborhood groups seek street, sidewalk, drainage and park improvements.

First "Housing Hearing Day" focuses on neighborhood housing problems.

Central Southside Neighborhood Association joins Vigo County Citizens Action for assistance on drainage, traffic and zoning issues.

Nursing Home Action Committee members learn that Medicare inspections of nursing homes are available at Social Security office and that Medicaid inspections are available at the Department of Welfare office.

March/'79: Three neighborhood groups combine to poll insurance agents about the effects of abandoned houses on homeowners' insurance policies.

April/'79: Central Southside scores a major victory with the elimination of a long-term standing water problem at 20th and Hulman.

May/'79: Highland signs the HALT (Highland Alcohol Limitation Treaty) peace pact with the Highland Tavern, a source of irritation for residents.

June/'79: Police Chief Jim Swift talks at a meeting of 80 Near Northside neighbors concerning stray dogs and arson.

Vego Chemical, the thorn in the side of Central Southside members for many years, burns down. Several weeks later all underground tanks of the chemical manufacturing plant are emptied by the time Central Southsiders gather city officials to address the problem of zoning irregularities.

June/'79: The Greater Terre Haute Church Federation officially endorses Vigo County Citizens Action neighborhood organizing.

Aug./'79: HUD officials tour Highland and the Near Northside to determine effective assistance strategies for local groups.

Krumbhaar Neighborhood Association is formed. 80 residents meet with the Department of Redevelopment concerning street and sidewalk improvements.

80 Near Northside residents meet with Indiana State University President Richard Landini to discuss "Fraternity Row".

Sept./'79: Krumbhaar discusses crime and crime prevention with Jerry Hawk, head of the City Crime Prevention Bureau.

Neighborhood groups initiated investigation of "Trash Court".

Workshop with HUD representatives on neighborhood revitalization.

Oct./'79: Krumbhaar attends the Housing Authority Executive Board meeting concerning crime. Presents three proposals for endorsement by the Board: 1) to increase the number of officers on night patrol. 2) taking of officers from behind the desk and onto the streets. 3) more communication between the Margaret Avenue Housing Project and beat officers.

The Avenues and Tracks-to-Wabash Organization (T.W.O.) steering committees are formed.

Nov./'79: 80 people attend the Public Service Commission field hearing in Terre Haute concerning water rate increase. Later, the request is trimmed by 26% saving \$200,000 locally.

Vigo County Citizens Action holds Public Forum on federal home improvement programs available in Vigo County.

Dec./'79: Neighborhood Associations call for an informational meeting and Public Speak Out on establishing a regular session in City Court to deal with problems of weeds, junk cars, trash and abandoned buildings.

Vigo County Citizens Action distributes the "Alphabet Soup" booklet outlining federal home improvement programs available to area residents.

Jan./'80: "Best attendance ever" characterises the turnout of 100 people at the 1980 Community Development Block Grant public hearing.

Local churches and neighborhood groups conduct surveys to determine community concerns.

Mayor P. Pete Chalos tours Krumbhaar and meets with several representatives.

Feb./'80:

100 persons attend the "Trash Court Public Speak Out" information meeting sponsored by Vigo County Citizens Action. The Mayor, City Judge, Building Inspector and City Council members are in attendance.

March/'80:

The Mayor tours Highland and meets with representatives.

45 Highland residents attend the City Council meeting and persuade the Council, in a landmark decision to protect the rights of neighborhood residents from special interest groups, to defeat a rezoning ordinance that would have permitted a ware house to locate in their residential neighborhood.

Distributed by Vigo County Citizens Action, for
use in community leadership training/development on
local self-help organizing.

Assoc (T.H.)
**Highland group
expresses concern
for improvements**

MAR 5 1978
Terre Haute's city engineer and Redevelopment Commission director met with 60 members of the Highland Neighbors Association Thursday night to discuss concerns of the group.

City Engineer James Burdick told The TRIBUNE the group requested information from him about a water problem on North 16th Street between Prairie Avenue and Fort Harrison Road.

Burdick said he told the association that his office would draft a recommendation to help the situation within three weeks and submit that recommendation to the Board of Public Works.

The problem involves water collection at low spots in the area, Burdick said. He added there are two or three options to approach and further study would indicate which was the best way to go.

Robert Payne, Redevelopment director, discussed street resurfacing with the group. He said every street between North 13th and North 25th streets would be considered for resurfacing. The majority of the streets in the area would be resurfaced, Burdick said, but for some resurfacing may be unnecessary.

Burdick said Housing and Urban Development money would be used to fund the resurfacing.

Payne also told the group that three vacant and abandoned houses in the Highland area would be demolished.

A petition was passed among those in attendance to take down houses at 3110 and 3115 N. 15th St.

An association spokesman said another meeting with elected officials is being planned and Russell Darnell, 3200 N. 15th St. is to chair that session.

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Vigo County Public Library Community Affairs

(Neighborhood)
X Assoc (T.H.)
Homeowners hear
MAY 1, 1978
Chalos, Payne
Community Affairs File

Some 50 members of the 3rd-13th Street Homeowners Association Tuesday night heard City Councilman Pete Chalos and representatives of the Department of Redevelopment pledge to attempt to solve a number of the association's complaints about the neighborhood.

Robert Payne told the group that plans call for a number of new curbs and sidewalks for the area between Seventh and 13th Streets this summer through a federally funded street improvement program.

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Assoc. (V.H.H.)
**New committee
seeks field hearing
on rate increase**

T MAY 18 1978
By ROE ALLEN

Tribune Staff Writer

A newly formed Utility Action Committee called upon area residents to request a Public Service Commission field hearing on a proposed rate increase by Public Service Indiana during a press conference conducted Tuesday morning.

Mary Street, a member of another recently-formed homeowners group, Third to Thirteenth Street Homeowners Association, chaired the press conference.

"This broad-based cross-section of community leaders calls upon the Public Service Commission of Indiana to schedule a formal 'field hearing' on Cause No. 35214 (the PSI request) this summer in Terre Haute," Mrs. Street said.

Also attending the conference were Cynthia Wolfe, League of Women Voters; Virgil Cesinger, Farmers Union; Vada Snoddy, Highland Neighbors Association; Don Leslie, Central Eastside Association; and Gene Dabelow, Wabash Valley Central Labor Council.

Each speaker commented on a PSI rate increase request of 18 percent.

PSI filed testimony and proposed rate schedules with the state Monday in connection with an 18 per cent rate increase that had been requested last December.

According to PSI officials, none of the additional costs incurred during the recent coal strike are reflected in the proposed rate increase now being considered. Those costs for fuel incurred during the strike period are to be reflected in the fuel clause adjustment on customer bills in June, July and August.

Mrs. Street and others involved with the Utility Action Committee expressed concern about the rate hike and the mandatory energy reductions and problems encountered in the area during the coal strike.

"Last winter, Terre Haute was singled out for nationwide coverage about the hardships faced by local businesses and families," Mrs. Street said. "As we all recall, the entire country was shocked by the severe conditions in our city."

Dabelow suggested the Terre Haute Area Chamber of Commerce to get involved with the push for a field hearing because of the work that agency did during the coal strike and energy reductions. "We want to know why this area suffered and others apparently did not," Dabelow added. He said the Chamber had been invited to the press conference, but did not send a representative.

Cesinger said the rate hike would put a further burden on area farmers who are already in a critical situation with wet fields delaying planting.

The committee is being assisted by the Vigo County Citizens Action Coalition. Ira Resnick, staff director, indicated he did not know the 18 percent increase requested by PSI is not a reflection of additional costs incurred during the coal strike.

"That's what the hearing is for," Resnick said.

REFERENCE

DO NOT CIRCULATE

Community Affairs File

Neighborhood group meets

Assoc. (H)

T May 15 1978

Fifty residents met Thursday night at the Christian Reformed Church to organize the Indian Acres Neighborhood Association and hear guest speaker Lt. Bill Ridge, Terre Haute Police Department.

Ridge was invited to the session to discuss traffic control and enforcement in the area.

According to a release prepared by the association, Ridge "explained the necessary channels for area residents to follow in order to have stop signs installed at problem intersections (such as 27th and Idaho,

26th and Idaho, 29th and McKeen)."

Ridge also reportedly asked members to prepare a list of intersections requiring attention and to submit the list to the neighborhood's councilman.

Ridge also said a study by City Engineer Jim Burdick of traffic flow is important, the release indicated.

Another problem discussed was "unlicensed and irresponsible motorcycle traffic." Solutions are to be worked out by the group and presented for further discussion at the next general meeting planned

for June 15.

Other concerns listed by the association were street conditions, lack of fire hydrants and the consequences for overall fire protection, stray animals, need for sidewalks, irregularity of city buses servicing the area and flooding on Brown Avenue between Cullen Court and McKeen Street.

Bill Wicks, co-chairman for the session, said "Neighbors here want to work together for an even better community and tonight's meeting brought out the feelings of pride we have in living here."

Vigo County Public Library

Community Affairs File

**REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE**

Assoc (TH)
T JUN 7 1978

THE TRIBUNE, TERRE HAUTE, IND.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7, 1978 3

Highland group wants concerns heard

Community Affairs File

Susan Sampson, a representative for the Highland Neighbors Association, has announced that members of the organization will be represented at Wednesday's meeting of the Terre Haute Board of

Public Works.

"We want to bring our concerns to the attention of local officials so that we can work together for neighborhood improvements in Highland," she said in a prepared release.

The major concern of the group is that the trend of growth in the southern part of the community may cause governmental agencies to neglect the concerns of the neighborhood.

Specific concerns outlined by

the organization included:

- A request to raze structures at 3110 and 3112 N. 15th St.
- A maintenance program to alleviate drainage problems in Highland.
- Express appreciation to City Engineer James Burdick for beginning work on N. 16th Street drainage problem.
- A request to correct drainage problems on 15½ Street and Elizabeth Avenue; 15th Street and Prairie Avenue; and 15th Street and Lee Avenue.

nue.

- A request to place stop signs at 15th Street and Prairie Avenue; 14½ Street and Prairie Avenue; and 13½ Street and Lee Avenue.

• Concerns about \$390,000 road improvement project south of the city and expressing interest in having similar work done in their neighborhood.

- Asked that local newspapers publish meeting times for the Terre Haute Board of Public Works.

REFERENCE

Community Affairs File

DO NOT CIRCULATE

Vigo County Public Library



CITY OFFICIALS TAKE A WALK—City Controller Joan Hetherington and City Engineer Jim Burdick lead of group of citizens during a tour of a southside neighborhood Monday evening. Members of the South Third to Thirteenth Street Homeowners Association met with the two city officials, both members of the Board of Public Works, to point out problems in the neighborhood. (Star Photo: Kadel)

8 JUL 18 1978

Community Affairs File

Officials Walk Through Southside Neighborhood

City officials Monday evening toured a southside neighborhood with a citizens action group interested in upgrading the quality of the neighborhood.

About 45 members of the South Third to Thirteenth Street Homeowners Association walked with City Engineer Jim Burdick and City Controller Joan Hetherington and discussed several problems in the immediate area.

Burdick informed the citizens group re-surfacing of 10th, 11th, 11½th and 12th streets, between Helen and Margaret avenues, would begin Friday — weather permitting.

Also discussed were proposals to correct drainage problems at several intersections and a recommendation to erect no parking signs on Margaret Avenue between Sixth and Ninth streets.

Ted Nicoson, spokesman for the group, said he was pleased city officials took the time to meet with the southside neighborhood association.

"Mr. Burdick and Mrs. Hetherington have done more than any other government official to help us correct our neighborhood problems and we sincerely appreciate their concern," said Nicoson.

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library

Neighborhood gets action from city

T JUL 21 1978

Near Northside Neighbors Association announced Thursday that it received a full-scale report from Terre Haute's Public Works and Safety Board concerning deteriorated properties in their neighborhood.

Twenty-two properties were inspected in what the organization called "the first full-scale study of local run-down conditions in the northside."

The report, prepared by Building Inspector Ernest Lowe, includes target dates when neighborhood improvements can be expected.

According to Lowe's report, conducted at the group's request, 13 vacant houses are to be renovated, and two of those are to be investigated by Lowe's office, Vigo County's Board of Health, county auditor, county treasurer and township assessor.

Also, the report indicates two deteriorated and hazardous houses are to be demolished.

About 45 Near Northside Neighbors Association members asked Mayor William J. Brighton to cut through red tape to remove neighborhood eyesores July 13.

Brighton set up a meeting with the association and building inspector's office and promised a "progress report" within a few weeks.

Group members were given a copy of the report at Wednesday's Public Works and Safety Board meeting.

"This full-scale inspection report proves that community organizations and city officials can work together to save our neighborhood," association member Pat Myers said.

Houses that are to be demolished are located at 1202 Elm and 614 N. 12th streets, according to the report.

Boundaries for the Near Northside Neighbors Association are North Seventh Street to North 13th Street and Spruce Street to Locust Street.

Other properties inspected were 616, 615, 621, 627, 635, 617 and 708 N. Eighth St.; 718 N. Ninth, 709, 717 and 721 N. 10th St.; 722, 801, 811 and 813 N. 11th St.; 715, 728, 811, 627 and 615 N. 12th St.

NNN Association steering committee members include Mr. and Mrs. Bud Glenn, Jim Higgins, Pat Myers, Russell Wallace, Mary Kiburis, Jim Adams, Mr. and Mrs. Delbert Bruns and Joe Vallosia.



FIGHTING CRIME TOGETHER—Sgt. Jerry Hawk, supervisor of the crime prevention bureau of the Terre Haute Police Department, foreground, explains several crime prevention tips for members of the Highland Neighborhood Association. Hawk and Police Chief James Swift met Thursday night with the group and urged all residents of this community to band together and fight crime. "Become involved — if you see something, then do something about it," said Hawk during his presentation. Star Photo: Kadel)

Northside Citizens Begin Effort To Combat Crime

SEP 8 1978
By J. BLAINE AKERS
Star Staff Writer

Citizens working together to combat crime was the general theme of a Thursday night meeting between members of the Terre Haute Police Department and Highland Neighborhood Association.

Police Chief James Swift and Sgt. Jerry Hawk, supervisor of the department's crime prevention bureau, discussed with the neighborhood group the problems with crime and methods to fight it.

"Become involved — if you see something, then do something about it," said Hawk.

A 12-year veteran of the city police department, Hawk informed the group of many home security tips which — if implemented — could deter a burglary. Hawk told Highland residents of the importance of good lighting around the home and suggested front and back porch lights have at least 100-watt light bulbs.

"I think good lighting is one of the best deterrents of crime and you should make an effort

to see that your home and property is well-lighted," Hawk said.

Other tips offered by Hawk were:

— Doors: solid steel doors are best for security purposes; install a "peep hole" door viewer in your door.

— Locks: a double-cylinder deadbolt lock is preferred for doors having glass less than 40 inches from the door lock; have keys for doors keyed alike.

— Garage Door Openers: preferred to have two-frequency garage door opener because many one single-frequency doors may be opened with same opener.

— Photographs: take a photograph of every room in your home, inventory your property and photograph valuables, antiques and jewelry.

— Operation Identification: an engraving pencil is available from the police department for the purpose of marking your property for identification.

Swift fielded questions from members of the neighborhood group who were upset with the

relatively low conviction rate for criminals.

"Perhaps nothing upsets me more than to see a criminal go free. I have constantly spoken out against judges and prosecutors who are lax with criminals," charged Swift.

Swift encouraged members of the group to "pressure" prosecutors and judges who are easy on criminals. He said, "Watch a man work and he works better. When a known criminal is arrested, I suggest you pack the courtroom and let these judges and prosecutors know you want something done."

Swift revealed crime statistics regarding the Highland area and surmised the neighborhood had one of the lowest crime rates in the city. In the first eight months of this year, according to Swift, there were seven residential burglaries, five business burglaries and six general thefts. He pointed out police made 866 traffic arrests in the neighborhood.

Community Affairs File

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Vigo County Public Library

Handwritten: Woodridge and Merrill
**Neighbors
Community Affairs
organize
(J. H.)
association**

An organizational meeting for a Woodridge and Merrill Subdivision Home Owners' Association is to be conducted at 7.30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 22, at the Fellowship Hall of the World Gospel Church, 900 Gardendale Road.

All owners who have enrolled as charter or regular members are requested to attend. Owners who have not yet enrolled are also invited to attend.

The meeting's purpose is to accept new articles of organization, merge Concerned Citizens for Public Health into the new association and to elect the first board of directors, along with other businesses and discussions that may come before the meeting.

SEP 24 1975

Community Affairs File Wigo County Public Library

**REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE**

Neighborhood group *Assoc (TH)* discusses problems

OCT 5 1978

Forty members of the Near Northside Neighborhood Association met Tuesday evening to discuss housing problems on the northside of Terre Haute, according to a release from Vigo County Citizens Action.

The release stated, out of nine landlords invited who own property in the neighborhood, only one attended the meeting.

Ten properties concerning the group, include vacant lots, vacant housing, and subdivided apartments at 1034 N. Seventh St.; 724 and 708 N. Eighth St.; 621-23, 835 and 808 N. Ninth St.; 1120 N. 11th St.; 1200 N. 12th St.; and 944-46 N. 10th St; and a vacant lot and broken-down shed on 10th and Tippencanoe streets.

"The turn out tonight and the concern shown by homeowners," noted Russell Wallace, chairman for the meeting, "proves that we here on the near northside are serious about working together to get 'The Terrible Ten' (the 10 properties) taken care of."

James Adams co-chaired the meeting and Ruth Campbell, of the Highland Neighbors Association discussed the efforts of her organization at the meeting.

The group plans to continue its campaign by bringing these and other run-down properties in the area to the attention of the Terre Haute Board of Public Works and Safety.

REFERENCE

NOT TO CIRCULATE

Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library

Assoc (TH)
Neighborhood Assoc
Neighborhood group to meet

OCT 17 1978
Terre Town Neighbors Together (TNT), an affiliate of Vigo County Citizens Action, will conduct its first meeting at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Terre Town School, 2121 Boston Ave.

Scheduled speakers are Charles Clark, schools administrative assistant, and Officer Dunbar, representing the juvenile division of the Terre Haute Police Department.

Also, Barbara Denny from the Indian Acres Neighborhood Association will discuss group efforts.

The TNT committee members include Carol Waltersdorf, Delores Malloy, Mary Lou Scully, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Thrasher and Mr. and Mrs. John Doerr.

Vigo County Public Library

REFERENCE

DO NOT CIRCULATE

Community Affairs File

Assoc (TH)
Community Affairs File
T OCT 19 1978

Nine attend second block grant hearing

Central Southside Neighbors Association members took their suggestions Wednesday to the Terre Haute Redevelopment Department which conducted public hearings for its

community development program.

The department conducted hearings Tuesday and Wednesday to gain citizen input on the \$2.4 million Community Development Block Grant Program.

Only four persons attended the Tuesday meeting and nine attended the Wednesday affair.

Suggestions offered by the group included recommendations to correct drainage problems at 25th Street and Hulman Ave., installation of street lights, paving of city streets and air pollution problems.

Redevelopment officials say they will conduct more public hearings.

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library

Interchange discussed by neighborhood group

TH NOV 3 1978

The Indian Acres Neighborhood Association got together Thursday night to talk about something that has many of its members very concerned: the Interstate-70 interchange alternative that would involve 25th Street.

A consensus of the group was that they opposed any such maneuver — now or in the future, reports of the meeting indicate.

According to Kay Wicks, who with Barbara Denny, another Indian Acres member and resident, chaired the meeting, the group discussed pros and cons of the 25th Street interchange with Thomas Davidson, transportation planner for the Vigo County Area Planning Department.

The Planning Department worked

10 years on a transportation plan for the county. However, it included a Fruitridge Avenue interchange for Interstate-70 and that idea was shot down by Terre Haute's City Council members when they rejected the plan.

The 25th Street site was included in the overall study by the Planning Department, but it was discouraged because of the project cost and displacement of families and businesses all along 25th Street.

Davidson, according to reports, said the planning department still encourages the development of an Interstate-70 interchange at Fruitridge Avenue because of the lesser project cost and the efficiency of such a site.

Ms. Wicks said the Indian Acres group declared that lesser project cost did not necessarily mean a better project.

Dr. Richard Barrow, who has been vocally opposing a Fruitridge Avenue exchange, proposed an outer-loop system using Indiana 46 as a leg instead of Fruitridge.

The Indian Acres group, assisted by Vigo County Citizens Action, noted the Dr. Barrow plan was more logical than the planning department's because it disrupted fewer residential sites.

Vigo County Public Library

Community Affairs File

REFERENCE
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Board of Works hears southside concerns

Nov 25 1978

Representatives of the Southside Citizens Action Group attended last week's Board of Works and Safety meeting to discuss neighborhood concerns. They brought along pictures showing poor street grading, standing water resulting from a broken sewer line and trash dumped on private property by unknown offenders. Another complaint pertained to junk cars in two locations.

The BW&S agreed to report the junk cars to the building inspector and to see that he looks into the matter.

City engineer Jim Burdick promised to have his department investigate the standing water and, in response to a request from the group, take a traffic count at Seventeenth and Hulman Streets. Previously a traffic light was moved from that location to Nineteenth Street; the group believes traffic is heavier on Seventeenth Street.

Burdick also disclosed plans to connect dry wells in the area of 20th and Hulman to the storm sewer, after first cleaning out the dry wells. He said dry wells continually clog up and the only real solution to the problem is a hook-up to a storm sewer.

Association members also voiced continuing concerns about Vego Chemical,

1617 Idaho. Assistant city attorney Bill Teeguarden was supposed to report at the meeting on the situation, but was ill. Jim Smock, city attorney, said Teeguarden told him he has not discovered any direct city code violation.

Smock recommended that representatives of the group arrange a meeting with Teeguarden for further discussion. He noted that Vego Chemical's attorney, Tom Gelder, has said he too is willing to meet with the group.

Residents' complaints about the firm include a concern over chemicals dumped on the ground that might contaminate drinking wells; fear of an explosion or fire from the chemicals; foul odors and air pollution; late night noises that disturb them.

In other business, the board voted to reject the bid received for a tone squelcher for the police department and readvertise. Commercial Radio bid \$29,742 on the equipment but only \$28,000 is available for it. That was the only bid.

In the previous week's meeting, the board awarded Dabney Equipment of Indianapolis a contract to provide a \$27,000 payload for the street department.

Dabney was low bidder on the equipment. A bid from Garco Industrial Equip-

ment on first inspection appeared lower but actually added as options items included in the payload specifications. Inclusion of these brought the Garco bid to \$28,789.

The board gave careful consideration to a request from a dentist located at Wabash Avenue and Barton for aid in solving a parking problem. Dr. Lawrence A. Denning wrote that since CBS purchased the Loveless Building, his patients are unable to park. He asked the city to post "2-hour limit" parking signs in the area.

Jim Burdick, city engineer, noted that limited parking is nearly impossible to enforce in outlying areas. The BW&S took no action and suggested that those concerned discuss the problem with CBS.

In other business, the board

-Approved payment of recycling bills totalling \$118,000 to Wabash Valley Asphalt for resurfacing work on Poplar, College, 7th and 13th Streets.

-Postponed a report from the assistant city attorney on Vego Chemical Company.

-Withdrew an "order to demolish" issued in August for property located at 1336 N. 12th Street. Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Barber, owners, have shown sufficient intent of repair to have the order removed, it was reported.

Neighborhood Problems *Association* Arise During Meeting

5 MAR 30 1979

By TONY TANOOS
Star Staff Writer

In October of 1978 the Central Southside Citizens Action Group was formed and Thursday night the organization had its second meeting with City Engineer Jim Burdick answering questions concerning problems in the southside neighborhood.

The meeting was conducted at the Wesleyan Church, 2000 Hulman St., also the location of a new drainage sewer. Doris Dicus, chairman of the action group, commented it was a relief to come to the church without wading through a lake of water.

She turned the podium to Burdick who opened the meeting to questions regarding the new sewer and any other troubles the residents might have.

The majority of questions centered around flooding at 17th and Mahan streets, operation of Vego Chemical Corporation, junk cars, zoning violations, a traffic light at 17th and Hulman St., and noise pollution from a southside tavern.

About the flooding at 17th and Mahan, Burdick said, "It's a low spot and everything drains there. There's only a sanitary sewer and maybe a couple of dry wells. We'll try to go into it (the sanitary sewer) but I'm hesitant to do this. I can't say either way whether anything will be done this year but we will look into it."

Burdick acknowledged the fact some of the problems stressed by

residents did not come under his control but offered to work with the persons at the meeting and the city departments which could help them with their problem.

Some of the complaints aired regarding Vego Chemical dealt with discharges of odors and of possible explosive liquids into the sewer. "If there are any ordinance violations we (the city) would like to take it to them. But we know of no such violations right now," Burdick said.

Burdick told the members to make a list of the junk cars and give it to the building inspector and he said he would work with the persons at the meeting to find out any zoning violations. One of the action group's committee members, David Farris, informed Burdick of a petition with 60 signatures which would be given him urging the installation of a traffic light at 17th and Hulman streets.

"I have just completed writing a recommendation concerning traffic lights in the city and in that recommendation I strongly said that a traffic light not be put there. The location doesn't meet the warrants set out for the installation of one," Burdick said.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Dicus thanked Burdick for the new sewer at 20th and Hulman streets. "We didn't expect it so quick," Dicus said. It was also pointed out by Dicus much had been accomplished by the group even though it had been formed for only six months.

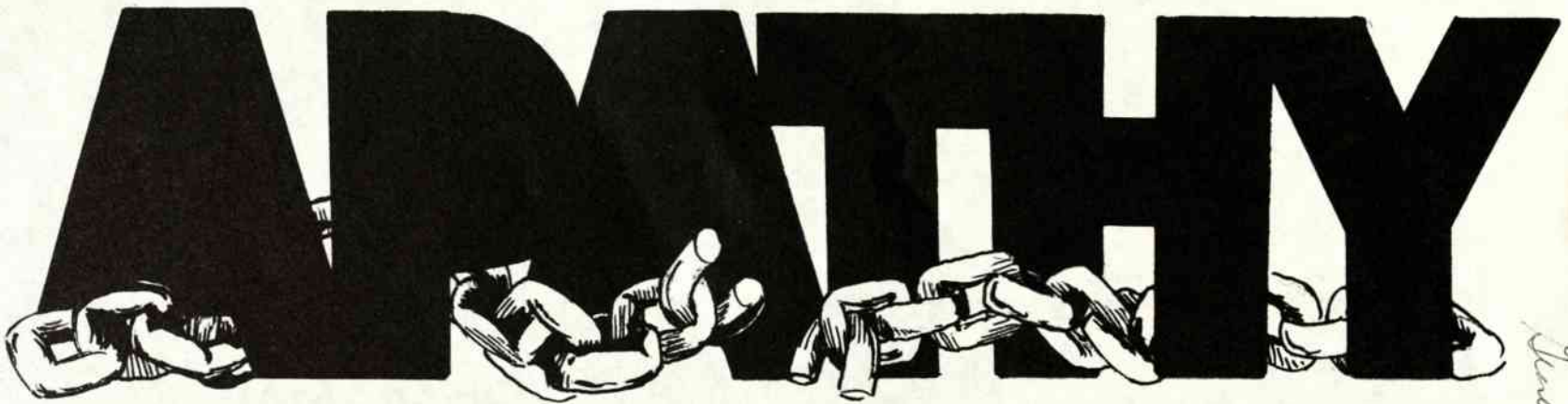
REFERENCE

DO NOT CIRCULATE

Vego County Public Library

Community Affairs File

BREAKING THE CHAINS OF



Neighborhood associations may be transforming grassroots politics

Sp MAR 24 1979

By Carl Roger Orth

An unusual thing is happening to politics-as-usual in Terre Haute. It may be changing--slowly, ever so slowly, but changing nonetheless. Stimulating some of these changes are five neighborhood associations which banded together to form a united front. Vigo County Citizens Action is getting results, and the status quo may never be quite the same.

A few local single-issue groups sprouted up in the late Fifties, but faded quickly. Formation of groups along neighborhood lines is a new phenomenon for the city. Highland Neighborhood Association was the first in March, 1978. It helped inspire spin-offs in Indian Acres, Near Northside, Terre Town, Central Southside, areas, and the Third to Thirteenth area (no longer affiliated with the county coalition). Members abide by strict bipartisanship to strike fear in the hearts of elected officials and would-be elected officials. With vanishing party lines (as witnessed during the 1978 general election), politicians cannot readily ignore a power which can command or influence several thousand votes.

"None of us are celebrities," Pat Jenkins said during a recent group interview by The Spectator. "We are ordinary citizens." Nobody views the movement as a knight in shining armor atop a white stallion fearlessly charging the City Hall bastions. Thorough research and organization are the weapons in the war to obtain attention for oft-neglected neighborhoods. Instead of spreading themselves too thin, each group narrowly defined the borders where their chief interests lie. They largely confine themselves to these areas in regard to minor matters such as street repair, erection of signs or unplugging a flooded dry well. Detractors of the concept said the people acted out of selfish interests, not self-interest. Ira Resnick, Citizens Action executive director, rebuts that notion. He said the groups quickly evolved beyond isolationism into a spirit of cooperation. Groups trade information among themselves, help new groups get on their feet, and unite on more complex countywide issues such as nursing homes and pricing of natural gas for churches and small businesses. "Leadership training--that's the real story," Resnick commented. The eventual goal is to organize the entire city into a union of neighborhood blocks.

(The union is still fragile. Personality conflicts erupted into a civil war last summer. Local groups rebelled from the mother organization, Citizens Action Coalition, a statewide group. See other story for full details.)

Take head out of sand

Paul Edgerton, ISU associate dean of student life and chairman of Vigo County Citizens' Action, embodies much of those leadership qualities. "We can make a difference. We can see it happening." Barb Deeney of Indian Acres Neighborhood Association, concurs. She acknowledges citizens would rather talk about more pleasant and simple subjects other than crime, arson and deterioration of neighborhoods into ghettos. "We want people to take their head out of the sand."

Leading this consciousness-raising movement are middle-aged people, especially many elderly citizens of the city. Con-

versely, there are few members who are in their 20s. The gray-hairs particularly identify with and take special pride in the "old neighborhoods." The slow death of these neighborhoods distresses them since they have lived most of their lives in those neighborhoods. Traditional concerns such as crime and arson, which is perceived to have worsened in the last five to ten years, traumatize them. Replacement of neighborhood fire station is another primary concern, mainly because of the sizable number of long-vacant houses and buildings in many of the areas. The members are also leery of absentee ownership and "slum landlords." Everyone complains about poorly functioning dry wells, flooded streets, slow snow removal.

No matter how complex or how simple an issue, long hours of research is the first stepping stone to solving the problem. "We do not run off half-cocked," Edgerton emphatically asserted. "When we do our homework the city administration will respond." Neighborhood groups not only research the problem, but also research who to invite to meetings.

Accordingly, Marjorie Trench and a squad of Near Northside volunteers did their legwork in December, 1978. The door-to-door survey of some 350 homes (with a somewhat low one-third response) revealed 83 percent of homes in the area are 40 years old or older, 12 percent of the houses lack plumbing, and one out of 50 are vacant or ready to be torn down. Crime and drainage problems were traditional gripes. But most mentioned the loss of the neighborhood fire station at 9th and Lafayette (to be centralized into the new station at 13th and Fort Harrison) as a primary concern. Trench explained that most people felt firemen couldn't possibly respond to alarms as quickly from the outskirts of town. Moreover, residents in the area greatly fear empty buildings, reasoning that a fire next door in an abandoned house could easily spread to their home. "There is concern," Susan Sampson said, "that Near Northside is turning into a ghetto." Indeed, Trench said she knew of pot parties of as many as a dozen persons in abandoned, ramshackle houses.

Uneasy truce

A vicious circle is developing, Edgerton explains. Older residents in the inner city die, leaving relatives unwilling to take on the upkeep of a house. The relatives dump the property onto the real estate market and it is snatched up by an uncaring absentee landlord who does little or no maintenance. Of course, the landlord and tenants may very well be conscientious folk. Nevertheless, Edgerton believes, "an uneasy truce" exists between part-time residents and permanent dwellers in all neighborhood associations. Specifically, Trench said during the survey she noted at least one out of five properties are rental. Spruce to Lafayette and Seventh to Thirteenth Streets compose the densest rental regions in Near Northside. Locust Street ownership patterns have reversed to rentals as well. The virus is spreading to Maple Avenue, Trench believes. "We're not against rental properties," Trench commented. "We're against rental owners who don't give a damn." Some so-called "slum landlords" cater to welfare recipients and students who are in poor position to bargain for improved living conditions, according to Vada Snoddy of Highland.

Neighborhood
Highland
Indian Acres
Near Northside
Central Southside
Third to Thirteenth

State, county promise help on nitrates

Neil Ott of the State Board of Health's public water supply division said late last week that he has discussed the contaminated ground water in north Vigo County with local health administrator Paul Welch and reached an agreement on immediate action.

The Spectator, in a story published last week, indicated that neither state nor county health officials were notifying residents of the area located near the CF Industries plant of possible contamination of wells by nitrates.

The Vigo County Health Department will begin additional well sampling, Ott said,

and will also get information out to residents of the area who may have nitrate in their well water. Dr. Robert Schumaker, county health officer, will prepare a flyer for distribution to residents explaining the problem, Welch told Ott.

A meeting of state and local health officials has been scheduled for the end of the month, Ott said.

Ott noted that water samples collected from four locations late in February indicated three home wells contained between 40 and 50 parts per million of nitrogen as nitrate; a fourth well located at Hercules tested as 23 ppm of nitrate. National drink-

ing water standards set 10 ppm of nitrate as the maximum safe level.

Plans to remove nitrogen before it contaminates ground water in the area are to be engineered by state health officials. A portion of the plan includes modifying CF Industry's permit to discharge into the Wabash River. While approval for the permit change by Environmental Protection Agency officials was anticipated by late February, that okay had not been granted at press time.

Democrats unhappy

Lovellette removed from primary

When the County Election Board voted to remove Clyde Lovellette from the mayoral primary ballot last week, the vote was strictly along party lines. The two Republicans, Lee Larrison and Carl Price, voted for removal, however, while Democrat Dwayne Rogers voted not to remove his name. More Vigo County politics, apparently.

Normally, you'd expect Republicans to side with their own, and Democrats to be interested in splitting up their opposition.

The vote tended to lend weight to talk that Mayor Bill Brighton's forces are worried about GOP candidate Larry Lidster and his possible primary victory. Word has been that Brighton and Police Chief Jim Swift maneuvered Lovellette into the race. Rogers' support of Lovellette could bear that out, as he is close to Democratic chieftains and usually does their bidding.

Lovellette listed his residence as the Elks Country Club when he filed to run in the primary. While he is the club's manager, Elks officials maintain he does not live there and there are no residential facilities at the club. "He may sleep there on a couch, but there are no sleeping quarters," Larrison pointed out.

Larrison said state election officials recommended that Lovellette be removed from the ballot. He said action was necessary at once, because of printing deadlines. "If he wants to go to court, he can. We could be ordered to use pasters if he wins," Larrison added.

Lovellette was reported to be out of town when the meeting was held. Rogers's motion to notify the two county party chairmen and Lovellette of the action was approved unanimously.

Starchy bonanza

Truckers fork over dough

Charles Ellis and Donald Bosc of the Vigo County State Police post boosted Indiana's coffers last week by arresting two truck drivers twice for the same offense. They first arrested the drivers on U.S. 41 Sunday, March 11, for driving overweight trucks. The vehicles were impounded, and after the drivers paid fines in court Monday, they were told to leave the trucks alone until they were emptied enough to fall within the legal weight limit.

The Alabama drivers disregarded the order, took their trucks and headed out I-70 towards Indianapolis. The troopers spotted them, re-arrested the drivers, and impounded the trucks again.

They were back in court Wednesday, along with the owner of William Hogan

Trucking, Huntsville, Alabama. The till in City Clerk Nick Peters' office was overflowing with \$100 bills.

The drivers were hauling potatoes from North Dakota to Alabama, they said. "Potatoes are our biggest problem," one said. "And Indiana is the state that gives us that trouble. Michigan has an 80,000 pound limit, Alabama a 92,400 pound limit. But Indiana's is 73,000 pounds. Tennessee's is low too, but we can make it through there usually. A lot of times we carry chickens, and that's not a weight problem."

According to the truckers, Indiana's low weight requirement has not resulted in roads that are in better shape than those in states with higher weight limits. "Your roads are as bad as any," one man noted.

Open door law criticized by Crockett

"The sunshine law is one of the worst possible laws. It denies this board a chance to share information, and was devised by a bunch of nosy reporters. It's exactly like a group of newspaper reporters who see a laxative given and know what will happen but sit around waiting to see the results anyhow," said school board member Wayne Crockett at the conclusion of last week's board meeting.

The school board agenda provided for the board to recess in the midst of the public session into a closed, executive session, and then to reconvene again into public meeting. At the onset of the meeting, the legality of this was questioned.

Superintendent Harmon Baldwin, who planned the maneuver, said that news media had been notified of the closed meeting 48 hours in advance of it, as were board members. He said this met all legal requirements for executive meetings.

A section of the open meeting law specifies that closed meetings may not be held during public meetings "except as otherwise permitted by applicable statute." Baldwin said this phrase meant following the 48-hour advance notice provision.

According to Dick Cardwell, Hoosier State Press attorney and a principal author of the law, the phrase refers only to matters of student due process. He says that it is the only permissible instance for a board to recess into a closed meeting during a public meeting.

The closed meeting was planned to discuss determination of the school secretaries' bargaining unit, and was resolved in an executive session prior to the public meeting, so the board did not recess. It approved a bargaining unit publicly by a 6-1 vote, with John Valle opposing.



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INTERNATIONAL FOODS

Too often houses allowed to deteriorate are prelude to arson. Susan Sampson witnessed one Maple Avenue apartment on fire twice in one week. Trench labels arson as the most "demoralizing" factor in the collapse of urban areas, a "who cares" attitude as exemplified by the young boy who was nonchalant about setting fire to Chauncey Rose Junior High School. Arson is hard to pinpoint, Edgerton commented. "But this isn't happening in Lincolnshire, Edgewood Grove or Indian Acres Estates (subdivisions)."

"We want to see Terre Haute stay together," Barb Deeney of Indian Acres spoke up. When she used to live near 17th and Poplar, some 50 families in the area were interviewed. The residents agonized about the slow deterioration of the neighborhood into a ghetto. They feared it would sweep along Poplar Avenue.

For some time, government inaction compounded the arson problems in the inner city which faced ghetto blight. For instance, according to Betty Miller of 3114 N. 15th St., complained that the house at 3110 N. 15th had been empty for 23 years and condemned for 13 years. Furniture lies in the front yard. Doors are open. Windows are broken. "I'm just sick of it," Miller said. Her tale is not new. Others complain of waiting 15 years for a house to be torn down by the city. In recent years the situation has improved largely due to the Department of Redevelopment and the city building inspection office. Bob Payne of Redevelopment told The Spectator some 200 dilapidated structures were torn down recently and some 60 more are slated for demolition. But with wrecking costs averaging from \$600 to \$800, Payne says a limited department budget restricts how much it can do.

Terrible Ten

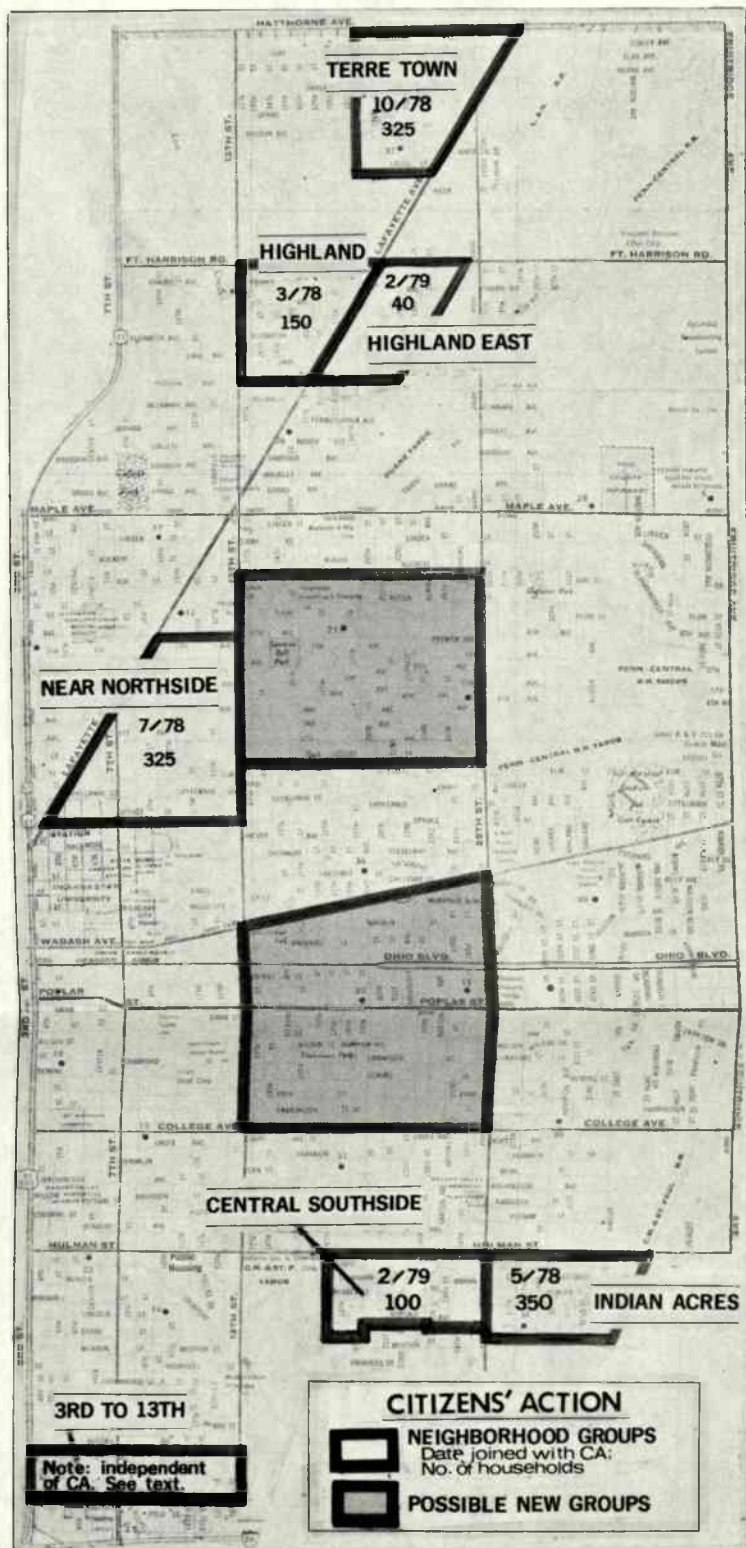
Nevertheless, to speed up the wheels of government, Highland members backed by Vigo County Citizens Action obtained a monthly "Housing Hearing Day" in order to vent frustrations of homeowners and alert public officials. Citizens Action members asked landlords to "have a heart" during the first such hearing on Feb. 14, Valentine's Day. (The monthly hearing is scheduled for the second Wednesday of each month at Redevelopment offices. The group also publicizes its "Terrible Ten" list, a compilation of what members feel are among the worst eyesores in the city. Red tape such as deeds and abstracts often delay progress. So far, only one house on the Terrible Ten list is on the condemned list. The Terrible Ten list includes, in random order:

- 1034 N. 7th St., owned by Larry Friedenson.
- 621 and 623 N. 9th St., owned by Betty L. Seprod.
- 1120 N. 11th St., owned by John A. Long Jr. Condemned.
- 724 N. 8th St., owned by Eldon Sloniker.
- 835 N. 9th St., owned by Hoskins. Owner is investing in substantial upstairs repairs and extensive renovations.
- 1200 N. 10th St., a vacant lot owned by J.W. Coy. The lot has since been cleared off.
- Vacant lot at Tippecanoe and Tenth Streets. Owner unknown.
- 708 N. 8th St., owned by Garrett X. Thompson.
- 808 N. 9th St., owned by Don J. McClure.
- 944 N. 10th St., owned by Chester Derickson.

Decline and fall of neighborhoods also can be traced to crime and apathetic acceptance of crime. The cancer of crime is both cause and effect in the collapse of urban residential areas. Vada Snoddy, a middle-aged woman from the Highland group, related her tragic, personal encounter with crime. She saw a young man throw a brick through a car window and snatch a purse inside the car. She pursued the thief on foot, rallied some aid, and helped apprehend the culprit. When she confronted the man, she was shocked to see the face of an 18-year-old man whom she had known to be an upstanding individual for all his life. Although she found the experience distasteful, Snoddy credited her involvement with the neighborhood group as the reason she pursued the thief when most would have sat idly by. Edgerton: "If people feel alone, they'll just sit behind their picture windows and say, 'tsk, tsk, isn't that too bad.'"

Strength in numbers

There seems to be quite a bit of truth in the adage, "strength in numbers." William Nicoson of the Third to Thirteenth group commented "those councilmen see us all sitting in back (of city hall courtroom) and they know we mean business." Although not affiliated with Vigo County Citizens Action, Third to Thirteenth members employ the same methods. Members first attended meetings of the Board of Works and Safety. They invited City Engineer Jim Burdick and City Controller Joan Hetherington to personally walk



Pat Jenkins points with pride to the Nursing Home Action Committee which unearthed hitherto buried regulations or little known information. The committee learned that Medicare inspection records are kept at the local Social Security office for public inspection and Medicaid records are on file at the Vigo County Welfare Department. Furthermore, the committee is publicizing a hotline service provided by the Area Agency on Aging housed within the local WCEIDD offices. Jane Royse of the Agency on Aging says any person over 60 can call 1-800-742-0804 for advice.

Revamping of gas pricing system for churches and small businesses was one of the earliest triumphs of the coalition on a "countywide issue," Edgerton said. Terre Haute Gas Corporation formerly based billing on consumption during peak load periods. Today they use a "more equitable" system tied to actual usage.

In the early months of 1979, Vigo County Citizens Action drew 50 to 60 persons for a public hearing on a Community Development Grant, the largest turnout ever. Exploring city government is a central theme.

The local coalition peaked in popularity last June when efforts to get a large turnout for a utility rate hike hearing were richly rewarded. More than one thousand people flowed into Hulman Civic Center Amphitheater for the Indiana Public Service Commission hearing. PSC is more responsive now, Edgerton believes, even though the group was disappointed in results (only one-fifth of the \$74 million request was cut). Edgerton: "It just blew their mind that a thousand people showed up. We intend to continue that."

But that triumph also points up the coalition's weaknesses. Not too long after the victory at the public hearing, the local groups warred with the state parent organization, the Citizens Action Coalition. The feud drove them into separate camps (see other story). The feud lessened influence of both parties--the county group on the state level and the state group on the local level. "Local efforts are fine," Gerthyl Bell, the local CAC rep, said, "but the state level is where you're going to save money." One of the primary missions of CAC is to wage battle against powerful utility corporations in favor of consumers. One of the chief benefits might be lower electricity bills.

Test of time

After the turbulence of the latter part of 1978, the groups of Vigo County Citizens Action are regaining lost ground. After only a year of existence, observers cannot judge whether the neighborhood associations will withstand the test of time. Current members hope to perpetuate the concept, though, by helping to organize new groups. An avenue alliance of people from Locust to Buckeye might spring up from a survey being conducted by Citizens Action with an ISU class in community organization. "It's a very homogenous group," Vigo County Citizens Action Executive Director Ira Resnick observes. A vacuum exists in the area from 13th to 25th and Locust to Eighth Avenue. Another area ripe for an association is the central avenues surrounding Poplar Street. People in the areas are "surprisingly receptive" to student interviewers. An avenues association would add at least 1,000 members to the neighborhood organization drive.

In the meantime, "the coalition does not survive on faith," Edgerton declares. He characterizes the current budget as "a pair of shoestrings." Help may be on the way in the guise of a \$10,000 Presbyterian Church grant. The coalition may also apply for up to \$10,000 through Community Development Funds. Catholic Human Development funds are available for the nursing home project. There are 80 family memberships of \$10 apiece.

Thus, for the foreseeable future, Citizens Action will give new meaning to the old cliché, "the squeaky wheel gets the oil." Even if the organization folded tomorrow, it has yielded a wealth of intangible results.

"Apathy, I feel, is gone," Pat Jenkins simply states.

Explains Resnick: "Citizens Action has given people a vehicle. They may only be concerned about a stop sign at first, but then they get more involved in exercising leadership."

"None of us are interested in leaving Terre Haute," Edgerton elaborates. Thus they will redouble their efforts to improve living conditions here. "Even if there are no results in two years, the six of us can sit back and say, 'we told you so.' But we will have tried."

Jenkins neatly sums it up: "It's people helping people again."

Crime is changing the face of inner city neighborhoods. One of the first landmarks to disappear from these urban areas is the small business. Owners figure it is too costly to stay in business. So far, a grocery store operator, a liquor store owner and a dry cleaning business magnate decided to stick it out in a downtrodden area near Poplar Street. They freely expressed their opinions, but asked for anonymity. They fear reprisals from publicity.

"Business is changing," the grocery store operator related. "Some high class people--they (just) think they're high class--come in here and they don't like to wait behind two colored (sic) people at the counter." He would move to a new location if he was younger, but the debt load would be too much for him in middle age.

On Feb. 17, police caught an 11-year-old youth in the grocery store. The child is being processed through juvenile court, although no details can be released from official sources due to laws protecting minors. The kid broke a front window with a hammer to gain entry. The grocery store operator feels certain the same offender broke into the store on Jan. 30. He says the child comes from a family of troublemakers. In-

Crime versus

insurance replaced the window this time, the man said. But if break-ins become too frequent the insurance company may insist on replacing windows with boards. "It's nice to have daylight. (With boards), hell, it would be like working in a barn."

A dry cleaning business owner publicizes by word of mouth the burglar alarm installed last year. He also makes it known no money is kept on the premises. With about half a dozen branches, he experiences almost all his troubles from this one branch. The branch has been burglarized three to four times in the past few years. "Brazen kids," which the owner defines as 18 to 24, often have time on their hands. They break-in not only to steal for sues and leather items, but also to feel a thrill of adventure, he hypothesizes. He does not blame law enforcement. "Police are getting the shaft from the judicial branch," he says. "Kids get by and get by and get by" because judges are irresponsible. If nothing else, a kid should be compelled to write a 5,000-word essay on the wrongness of his act, he says.

A liquor store closes earlier than in past years due to break-

BRIEF HISTORY OF NEIGHBORHOOD GROUPS

1977

November--Church Utility Committee, forerunner of Terre Haute neighborhood groups, meets with Terre Haute Gas Co. representatives to discuss minimum rates.

December--Utility Committee meets with Indiana Public Counselor about minimum rates. Later the rate system is amended.

1978

March--Highland Neighborhood Association forms with 60 persons.

April--Third to Thirteenth Street Homeowners Association is the city's second neighborhood group.

May--Indian Acres Neighborhood Association comes into existence.

June--Nearly 1,000 people descend on Hulman Center for an Indiana Public Service Commission hearing on a proposed electricity rate hike. Later, the \$74 million request by Public Service Indiana is cut by 20 percent.

July--Mayor Brighton attends the first meeting of the Near Northside Neighborhood Association. Dilapidated housing is a key issue.

October--Terre Town Neighbors Together members are concerned about school safety at the first meeting.

--Nursing Home Action Committee begins work.

November--Councilmen pledge to inform Indian Acres group of any zoning changes in their area.

1979

January--Good attendance marks public hearings on Community Development Block Grant funds.

--Vigo County Citizens Action develops course in skills of community organization with Indiana State University.

February--Central Southside Neighborhood Association joins Vigo County Citizens Action.

--First "Housing Hearing Day" at Department of Redevelopment focuses attention on neighborhood blight.

Neighborhood problems identified

APR 19 1979

By ROB ALLEN
Tribune Staff Writer

In an apparent unprecedented move, Indiana State University students and Vigo County Citizens Action representatives have worked together to identify problems in a northside neighborhood.

Daniel J. Palka, ISU assistant professor of social work, conducting a course in neighborhood organization, had his class survey more than 500 residents in the "avenues area" — bounded by First Avenue, 13th Street, Eighth Avenue and 25th Street.

Results based on 450 participating neighbors were then tabulated and will be sent to the 505 families in the area.

Vada Snoddy, representing Citizens Action, said, during a news conference Thursday morning, the ISU student effort "represents a unique example of neighborhood leaders and young people working together to constructively address local issues in our community."

Palka said he came up with the idea when he noticed a lack of neighborhood organization instruction at ISU. He noted the survey provided first-hand experience for the students and some needed information for the community.

The next step is to be attempts to organize the area into a viable neighborhood group and then attack the problems.

Citizens Action also has planned a "Meet the Mayoral Candidates Nite" on Tuesday, April 24, at Maple Avenue United Methodist Church, 1203 Maple Ave. Expected to attend the 7:30 p.m. session are Democrat candidates William J. Brighton, Pete Chalos, George A. Schoffstall and William Thompson and Republicans Dave Blankenship, Larry Lidster and Clyde Lovellette, according to Mrs. Snoddy.

The top 10 concerns of the "avenues area" include, ranked by number of times mentioned, include: traffic, 36 percent; police protection, 24 percent; stray dogs, 23 percent; streets, 18 percent; curbs and sidewalks, 13 percent; sewers, 17 percent; vacant housing, 17 percent; snow removal, 3 percent; parking, 7 percent; and street lighting, 6 percent.

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Community Affairs File

Highland neighbors, tavern reach truce

Detente took another giant step forward when the H.A.L.T. peace treaty -- Highland Alcohol Limitation Treaty -- was signed by leaders of both sides.

The silent majority is speaking up again. This time several neighborhood associations in the city are placing top priority on controlling taverns with noisy and rude patrons. Two groups are exploring different approaches to some form of peaceful coexistence or at least a ceasefire. Highland Neighborhood Association, the north-side group centered around Lafayette Avenue, has sought out the cooperation of the owner of Highland Tavern as a first step. Their HALT treaty will serve as a model for the other five neighborhood groups. Negotiation between the Cowshed tavern owner and Central Southside Neighborhood Association (an area centered around 19th and Hulman Streets) has broken down. The group has pursued the next alternative -- airing their complaints at a liquor license renewal hearing.

These activists are grappling with minor but nagging problems contributing to the decline of city neighborhoods, problems city government is unwilling or unable to handle. All groups envision what might be dull meetings with flashy gimmicks tailor made for television news exposure. Highland used a giant, five-foot treaty poster. Central Southside members wore ear muffs to the Vigo County Alcoholic Beverage Commission meeting to dramatize the extent of noise problems.

The activism and inventiveness are trademarks of Vigo County Citizens Action, a loose union of five neighborhood groups (a sixth association is not affiliated with VCCA). Citizens Action is to the neighborhood groups what the federal government is to individual states. In this case, though, the balance of power is tipped toward the "states" instead of the "federal government."

Neighborhood groups are a relatively new phenomenon in Terre Haute. The oldest group (Highland) is only about two years old; the youngest (Central Southside) not much more than six months old. Organization remains shaky.

Groups often lie dormant like volcanoes and then suddenly erupt, seething in activity. The influence of Citizens Action stabilizes the groups. The associations may eventually mold themselves into a viable, easily recognized political force in the city. Their strict bi-partisan policy toward politics already has rewarded them handsomely. Now the groups must simply endure the test of time instead of burning out like so many other local consciousness-raising, socially active groups in Terre Haute's past.

Associations seem to be just what the doctor ordered for ailing urban areas of the city. This "medicine" is curing the sense of helplessness among individuals. The subtle shift in attitudes among members of neighborhood groups has evolved into an almost defiant spirit. Each resident/member has thought much about moving. Each reached the conclusion, in Dorothy Jacobs' words at a Highland meeting, "why should I move?"

Now the groups are tackling problems head on. They do their homework thoroughly and then confront the proper government agency. Taverns, especially establishments catering to college-age people, have been a common complaint. Central Southside took a petition with 100 signatures concerning Cowshed tavern to the Vigo ABC. "We don't think a license to sell liquor is a license to keep neighbors awake at night," Renetta Farris said at the ABC meeting. Highland residents also complained about the equally ram-bunctious crowd at Highland Tavern. Owner Vince Holcomb agreed to abide by conditions of a treaty: post no parking signs, put out trash barrels, prevent patrons from taking open cans of beer outside the building, bar offending patrons, and post these provisions inside the tavern.

For his part, Holcomb wasn't reluctant to participate in the goodwill gesture. Any kind of publicity can sometimes bolster a business, he figures.

Highland group has also enlisted another ally, Merchants Savings Association. The group held their "HALT treaty" press conference at the new

Merchants building on Fort Harrison Road. They hope bank officials will be equally understanding if homeowners ever need loans for home repairs.

The neighborhood associations are bringing other problems to the attention of local officials. Highland residents in particular have crusaded for demolition or rehabilitation of dilapidated, abandoned houses. At a recent meeting of the Highland group, Dorothy Jacobs related that wrecking crews were finally scheduled to clear away two houses which had been unoccupied for 23 years, according to reports. Jacobs reminded her fellow residents of a survey showing insurance agents are reluctant to insure a house on a lot next to an abandoned house. "There's no point in putting money into our homes," Jacobs said. Also on the agenda that night were topics such as inadequate park facilities, insufficient numbers of fire hydrants, and nonexistent water service to parts of the area. Not much is heard about these problems. If the Highland members have anything to say about it, you'll be hearing a lot more on these subjects in the future.

Despite initial success of the neighborhood associations, members must still overcome an inertia -- the tendency for an object at rest to remain at rest. "Commit yourselves, people," one woman cajoled the 17 persons attending the meeting. "We can't sit back and say let George do it." Another member, Ruth Campbell, explained her involvement in the Highland movement: "I'm tired of my neighborhood being called 'The Strip'; Live and let live, but a dirty neighbor should not impose his style of living on me."

Meetings of neighborhood groups can be encouraging and scary at the same time. An observer can detect negative elements in the rush to save neighborhoods from decline. Words are tinged with traces of protectionism, vigilantism, self-justification and self-serving interests. Will neighborhood groups unite the city or fragment it into blocks? It is hard to say. Nonetheless, the free association, banter and chatting among Highland members at the recent meeting were remarkable.

Myers wants Hoosier veterans' cemetery

By Charlie Green
States News Service

WASHINGTON--Congressman John Myers has introduced a bill to establish a veterans' cemetery in Indiana, but Veterans' Administration officials say the legislation is being offered too late to do much good.

Myers, R-Covington, said he introduced the bill because he's convinced Indiana would be an "ideal location" for a large cemetery to serve the Great Lakes region.

But the VA has already ruled out Indiana as a site and is nearing the end of a search that began five years ago to find a regional cemetery for veterans in Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin and Minnesota. Several Terre Haute citizens tried to get the cemetery located here.

Robert Hammond, deputy director of cemetery services for the VA, said the agency has narrowed its choices down to two sites, one near Battle Creek, Mich., and the other near Sandusky, Ohio.

Environmental impact statements on the two sites are to be completed May 9 and a final selection will be made by September, he said.

The chances of any other site being considered are extremely remote, Hammond said.

Carl Noll, Hammond's supervisor, was even less optimistic. He said Wednesday that the VA definitely will select either the Michigan or Ohio site.

Hammond explained that two sites in Indiana, one in Indianapolis and another in New Castle, were examined by the VA about two years ago, but only had 5.7 acres and 200 acres respectively, far below the VA's minimum requirement of 500 acres.

Also working against Indiana, he said, is the fact that the state already has a veterans' cemetery in Marion that has space available through 1985. And by expanding the Marion cemetery, it could last through the year 2000, Hammond said.

Myers, however, feels there hasn't been adequate attention paid to Indiana as a potential site. Michigan is too far north and Ohio is too far east to have a centrally-located cemetery, he maintained.

"Families like to be located near their loved ones," he said.

Myers, who is not a member of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, said he has tried to convince the committee of his concerns "and they said they'd consider it, but they never get around to it." He charged that "politics on the committee" may have something to do with it.

However, neither site selected by the VA is located in the congressional district of a committee member. And one member of the subcommittee that oversees cemetery site selection is, in fact, from Indiana--Kokomo, Republican Elwood Hillis.

Hillis suggested some Indiana sites to the VA a few years ago, but those sites were rejected. At a subcommittee hearing Wednesday, Hillis offered no criticism of the VA's site selection process and was generally complimentary of their efforts.

Following the passage of the National Cemeteries Act of 1973, the VA has concentrated on establishing regional cemeteries throughout the country to serve veterans. Selection of the sites has sparked considerable congressional interest, with many congressmen lobbying for locations in their own states or districts.

According to VA estimates, there are 6.1 million veterans in the region that includes Indiana and an estimated 80,520 of them will die annually, assuming there's no more wars.

Both the Sandusky and Battle Creek sites would last until the middle of the next century, Hammond said, and provide gravesites for about 200,000 veterans.

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

How citizens got rid of a street corner lake

Editor's note: This is the second in a series of reports about the growth of neighborhood associations in Terre Haute. This installment focuses on the Central Southside and Indian Acres groups.

By Carl Roger Orth

We are a nation of complainers. We have raised complaining to a fine art. If the energy crisis was solved and all mail delivered on time we'd complain that there wasn't anything to complain about. Just look at our Founding Fathers. Brother, what a bunch of soreheads! No sooner did we get rid of taxation without representation we start complaining about taxation with representation.

Our favorite pasttime is to gripe, grouch, grumble, and growl. Now, there's nothing wrong with blowing off some steam. But, as Shakespeare put it, methinks he doth protest too much. Somewhere along the

line we lost sight of the deep motivation to change things, a motivation which goes hand-in-hand with complaining. You can't have one without the other.

Neighborhood Associations

Now comes some local neighborhood associations which are rekindling that spirit of change, the spirit of shaping events instead of surrendering to them as foreordained fate. Complaining has always united us no matter how dissimilar our backgrounds.

And now complainers and a few good, old-fashioned rebel-rousers from Terre Haute's declining neighborhoods are rallying together. It comes not a moment too soon if they are to reverse the deterioration of some of the city's older urban areas.

★★★★

CENTRAL SOUTHSIDE

Central Southside members are infusing a sense of pride once again into their area centered near 19th and Hulman Streets. City government often passed over this neighborhood for improvements such as storm water drainage and road repair. It became neglected enough to be classified as one of Terre Haute's low income areas in the 1970 census. Doris Dicus, one of the

Central Southside organizers, claimed some streets had not been resurfaced in 30 years. In one of life's quirky moments, the neighborhood's low-income status qualifies them for special federal funding. Various city agencies are preparing an extensive street repair program for the area.

The group scored its biggest victory in its brief six-month history with the draining of "Lake Hulman." This ridiculously wide body of water stretched as long as a block in each direction from 20th and Hulman.

The pool of water collected at this low spot even during a mild rainfall. Residents jokingly suggested they might open a water skiing resort at the intersection. Dry wells had been installed to alleviate the problem.

But city maintenance crews rarely cleaned the clogged dry wells. Even then the dry wells were inadequate. Finally, in April, after residents struggled with the problem for decades, the city engineer's office installed larger drain pipes and connected

Indirectly the group won another hard-fought battle involving a chemical manufacturing plant. Two weeks ago the chemical plant burned down. Vego Chemical stuck out like a sore thumb at 1617 Idaho where it was surrounded by residences. For most of this decade, Dicus, Earl Davis, Darrell Bemis and other neighbors tirelessly complained about the spot rezoning which permitted this oddity. A 1977 fire and explosions (when the owner promised no explosives would be stored at the chemical plant) still did not arouse the city council to action. Neither did reported state fire code violations. Utter destruction of the plant June 8 prompted action at last. Efforts are underway to remove the remaining underground storage tanks. The residents are vindicated.

Two other problems also do not yield to easy solutions. Noisy patrons of the

Cowshed Tavern awaken sleeping residents at night, they claim. The group is arguing a license to sell liquor is not a license to keep people awake at night. The group submitted

a petition with 157 names to the local Alcoholic Beverage Commission. They wore ear muffs to one meeting to dramatize their complaint. The other problem, unsightly

junk cars at a garage, is being pursued. The group is checking the zoning for Hammond's Garage, which they consider to be one of the worst offenders. These pro-

blems may persist for months or even years. But with a united front the group carries more clout. "Singly we can't do it, but together we can get things done," Dicus said.

★★★★

How to get involved

Would you like to see a few things change in your neighborhood? For more information about neighborhood groups, try calling the Central Citizens Action office or these association members:

CENTRAL SOUTHSIDE
Jean Bemis, 235-8239
HIGHLAND/HIGHLAND EAST
Susan Sampson, 466-1850
INDIAN ACRES
Bill Wicks, 235-6524
NEAR NORTHSIDE
Elsie Erb, 234-9181

TERRE TOWN
Mrs. Claude Clark, 466-1504
VIGO COUNTY CITIZENS ACTION
Ira Resnick, 232-6844
3RD TO 13TH (Independent)
Mattie Scarbraugh, 235-4711

★★★★



Neighborhood groups see bright future

Last of a Series
By Carl Roger Orth

"We own this town!" a man passionately argued at a recent neighborhood association meeting. Faces at the session registered eyebrow-raising surprise at this bold assertion. Then, like a light bulb popping above the head of a cartoon character, realization dawned on these people that they do indeed possess the keys to unlock local government.

During the past two years half a dozen neighborhood groups have been promoting this community awareness. The Citizens Action bloc of five neighborhood groups especially has been evolving into a bipartisan political force.

The strength and endurance of these groups rests on the fundamental concept of neighborhood associations, like autonomous states, instead of a single city-wide group. The downfall of groups in the past was a set of goals so broad that they became unworkable. Everybody is more interested in what is happening on "our block" rather than the other guy way over on the other side of town.

Remember that word: Ours. Different reasons motivate different groups. The suburban neighborhood groups on the edge of city limits want to block urban blight before it even begins; the inner city neighborhood groups want to stamp out worrisome and sometimes rampant "ghettoization." No matter what the topic, no matter what the group, though, the one word repeated over and over again is "ours." Members of these associations who have poured their lifeblood into homes identify strongly with a sense of neighborhood.

A recent survey by the Center for Urban Regional Studies based at ISU washes away any doubts that the city needs help. Out of 18,851 homes surveyed, the report indicates that 3,252 houses require extensive repairs on foundations; 3177 need a new coat of exterior paint; 3280 could use new siding; 2987 roofs are deteriorating; 2237 windows and doors need attention and 5219 gutters and downspouts are falling down. Furthermore, 6058 city sidewalks have cracked into pieces and sidewalks in front of 3925 homes are nonexistent.

As citizens become aware of these pressing needs, they can pressure local government officials to do their part into upgrading the city.

In this third and final installment of the Citizens Action series, Valley Variety summarizes the goals of two vastly divergent areas—Terre Town, a highly populated suburban type of neighborhood, and Near Northside, an area bordering Lafayette Avenue near the downtown sector.

TERRE TOWN

Although Terre Town has no formal organization, they keep the lines of communication open between neighbors in this highly developed area on the north edge of town.

The city annexed this section in the late

50s but the area still retains the flavor of a suburb. They lavish much loving care on their attractive middle-class homes and consequently feel very protective about their belongings. So far they have thwarted the urban blight which afflicts their inner city cousins. And they intend to keep it that way.

But Terre Town residents do not live in utopia. Problems exist. Traffic on the highly-traveled Lafayette Avenue concerns this group very much. According to Mrs. Claud Clark, weeds and vines grow so tall at Lafayette and Haythorne they block the view of drivers. Cars zip along at high speed at the unmarked intersection, which includes a railroad track. No traffic signal exists at the intersection. Drivers attempting to turn onto Lafayette from Haythorne must dart into the heavy traffic and take their chances. School buses carrying children from nearby Otter Creek school multiply fears of residents. A traffic accident along this strip of highway could prove costly in terms of injuries or lives.

NEAR NORTHSIDE

In many respects Near Northside association serves as the conscience of the Citizens Action federation. Residents were deeply involved in the original church utility committee in November, 1977, which would later in 1978 spawn the neighborhood groups. The committee successfully reversed discriminatory gas company pricing policies which billed churches and other institutions according to peak load periods instead of actual usage.

Ever since then this socially-conscious group on the northwest edge of the ISU campus has stressed the "exploration" of city government, as member Paul Edgerton expressed it. "None of us are interested in leaving Terre Haute," Edgerton explains. Thus the Near Northside members have rolled up their collective shirt sleeves and thoroughly researched the problems besetting this area bordered by Lafayette Avenue, 13th Street, Spruce Street, and Eighth Avenue.

The squeaky wheel gets the oil, the old saying goes. Near Northside formally organized in July, 1978, at which time Mayor Brighton attended the first meeting dealing with abandoned houses. They have been the only group to cajole Brighton into personally appearing at a meeting.

Rental slums is a dirty expression in this neighborhood. Edgerton explains that a vicious circle developed here. A much larger share of older folks peoples this neighborhood. Thus when a homeowner dies, relatives often dump the property cheap onto the real estate market. Occasionally property is snatched up by less-than-honorable men who convert the house into apartments. These few uncaring absentee landlords cater to welfare recipients and college students. The landlords do not invest hardly any money into upkeep. Eventually rental slums seem to spread like a disease.

It should be noted that probably most absentee landlords are trustworthy people. But it takes only a few unsavory characters to turn a block into a shambles. Marjorie Trench, another member who has walked the neighborhood several times for surveys, reports that about one out of five properties are now rental properties. What depresses the Near Northside members is that these rental properties are bunched together along Spruce Street to Lafayette and Seventh to Thirteenth Streets, the densest rental region. To the north, Locust Street ownership patterns are also reverting to rentals. An "uneasy truce" between homeowners and landlords exists, Edgerton said.

The problem now comes full circle. These rental properties deteriorate and some of them are eventually abandoned. Abandoned housing is the pet peeve of the Near Northside group. They advocate an aggressive rehabilitation and demolition program. This gives rise to another problem, the vacant lot. But demolition of vacant properties circumvents a worse disease: arson.

People in this area cringe at that ugly word, arson. They almost wince at the mention of this perplexing and seemingly unsolvable problem. Fires, whether by arson or accident, plague the area.

Elsie Erb of Near Northside combined efforts with two other associations to poll insurance agents about abandoned housing. Twelve out of 15 grudgingly said insurance policies and premiums would definitely reflect an abandoned house or vacant lot next door to a policy holder. If conditions of an abandoned house are bad enough, the insurance company might even revoke a policy or refuse to underwrite a homeowner.

Near Northside's approach to neighborhood problems apparently appeals to many residents. The latest meeting, about a month ago, drew from 75 to 100 persons, an attendance record for all neighborhood groups.

Some charter members of Near Northside recall wistfully the enormous turnout at a June, 1978, Public Service Commission hearing on a contemplated PSI rate hike. All Citizens Action groups "got out the vote," to borrow a politician's phrase. More than one thousand people showed up at the hearing. The associations reveled in that moment of glory. The one-thousand mark gives them something to shoot for.

Apathy is Yielding

In conclusion, this series of articles has attempted to show that apathy is slowly yielding to community awareness. Certainly the neighborhood groups act out of self-interest, mostly in regard to their homes. But they are shrugging off the inertia of selfishness and evolving into a unified force. As Citizens Action executive director Ira Resnick said, leadership training is the real story here.

BRIEF HISTORY OF NEIGHBORHOOD GROUPS 1977

November—Church Utility Committee, forerunner of Terre Haute neighborhood groups, meets with Terre Haute Gas Co. representatives to discuss minimum rates.

December—Utility Committee meets with Indiana Public Counselor about minimum rates. Later the rate system is amended.

1978

March—Highland Neighborhood Association forms with 60 persons.

April—Third to Thirteenth Street Homeowners Association is the city's second neighborhood group.

May—Indiana Acres Neighborhood Association comes into existence.

June—Nearly 1,000 people descend on Hulman Center for an Indiana Public Service Commission hearing on a proposed electricity rate hike. Later, the \$74 million request by Public Service Indiana is cut by 20 percent.

July—Mayor Brighton attend the first meeting of the Near Northside Neighborhood Association. Dilapidated housing is a key issue.

October—Terre Town Neighbors Together members are concerned about school safety at the first meeting.

—Nursing Home Action Committee begins work.

November—Councilmen pledge to inform Indian Acres group of any zoning changes in their area.

1979

January—Good attendance marks public hearings on Community Development Block Grant funds.

—Vigo County Citizens Action develops course in skills of community organization with Indiana State University.

February—Central Southside Neighborhood Association joins Vigo County Citizens Action.

—First "Housing Hearing Day" at Department of Redevelopment focuses attention on neighborhood blight.

March—Three neighborhood groups combine to poll insurance agents about the effect of abandoned houses on homeowners' insurance policies.

April—Central Southside scores a major victory with elimination of a long-term standing water problem at 20th and Hulman.

May—Highland signs a HALT (Highland Alcohol Limitation Treaty) peace pact with Highland Tavern, a source of irritation for residents.

June—Police Chief Jim Swift talks at a Near Northside meeting with the largest attendance of any meeting of any neighborhood group. Stray dogs and arson were the topics.

—Vego Chemical, the thorn in the side of Central Southside members for many years, burns down June 8. Several weeks later all underground tanks of the chemical manufacturing plant are emptied by the time Central Southside gathers city officials to address the problem of zoning irregularities.

St. George Days July 14 and 15

When the summer heat and doldrums conspire against you; when the gasoline tank is close to empty, and the State Park is miles away; when television promises just a repeat of the repeat you saw last fall, it's time to take another look at your own backyard.

Well, maybe not your own backyard, literally speaking, but perhaps your own neighborhood, your own city, your county. And while you're at it, "Wanna Go Ethnic?"

Two days of Middle Eastern ethnicity geared to the Terre Haute public will be as close as South Fourth Street on July 14 and 15.

The First Annual Saint George Days will be a festival of fun and food for all visitors, with the parishioners of the Orthodox Church inviting the Terre Haute and surrounding community to try exotic Middle Eastern foods such as kibbee (deliciously seasoned beef/wheat concoctions); tabooly (a wheat garden salad); yubrak (stuffed grape leaves); sfeeha (stuffed meat pies); and camel ears (fried dough). There will be the good, old American "Coney Island" hotdog, a dairy booth for those seeking cool refreshments and beverages. A special food booth will cater to those who must diet.

Join in the "old country" style

dancing—in long lines or matched pairs, to the music of the Arabic drums, derbuckie. Watch lavishly costumed Middle Eastern dancers in their rhythmic native dance, and have your photograph taken as a belly dancer, or in the garb of a shiek of the desert. If you've got a good eye for noses, you might want to enter the "Match Noses" contest!

If your American instincts are just too strong, see Bob Heaton and Jim Bogle display their basketball skills; watch your favorite television stars get "dunked" and try it yourself; Orion, Starmate from WBAK, Jerry Azar, WBAK, and Mike Raftis, WBOW have promised to be with us. Allan Hackney will be sketching portraits; local craftspeople will be displaying their wares, and 10 carnival game booths give you the opportunity of carrying home stuffed animals, watermelons or pastries as testimony to your skills.

An exhibition of dance by Dick and Carol from Lee's School of Dance and disco dancing with WBOW will add to your evening's enjoyment. Children will love the roving clown, the food, and games geared to their talents. It's family fun with an ethnic flavor, something you won't want to miss.

Saturday, July 14, Saint George Days begin at 10 a.m., ending at 11 p.m.; Sunday, July 15; hours from noon to 6 p.m. A special raffle drawing for a Las Vegas trip for two will be held at 5 p.m. on the 15th.

William Windom plays Hoosier journalist in one-man show

William Windom plays Hoosier journalist Ernie Pyle in a one-man show Monday, July 16 at Indiana State University.

The show, at 8 p.m. in Tilson Music Hall, is based on the Pulitzer Prize-winner's vivid account of the depression years and of World War II. Using nothing but the writer's own words—in this case Pyle's newspaper columns—and his own perception of the man who wrote them, Windom brings the famous reporter, a native of nearby Dana, back to life.

A favorite of the "little people," Pyle's low-keyed journalism and unerring eye captured the flavor of the 30's and 40's in terms that put millions of newspaper readers on the scene of major events that shaped the depression and WWII.

Windom returns to ISU after a short absence. He played to a sell-out audience last October when he presented another of his one-man shows on author-cartoonist James Thurber. He is still active in television and motion pictures as well.

Tickets for the Convocation Series program will be available at the door.



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ASSOC (1, 71)

Highland Neighborhood Ass'n offers playground proposal

18 JUL 15 1979

The Highland Neighborhood Association has proposed that the Terre Haute park department purchase wooden playground equipment from St. Ann's Church.

The association recently surveyed area residents about facilities to be located in the new Anaconda/Highland Park at 14th Street and Elizabeth Avenue. According to the association, wooden playground equipment was the number one priority listed by local families.

In a letter to the city park superintendent, Susan Sampson recommended the city buy the equipment for \$1,150. The association was quoted that price in a letter to Sampson from William Shackelford of St. Ann's. Bert Dieter, from Creative Playground Corporation, reportedly told the group that similar equipment would cost about \$5,000 today.

The group reportedly learned from Richard Hanley, recreation director, that the park department usually purchases its wooden playground equipment from Creative Playground. "Buying the 15 pieces from St. Ann's Church," said the neighborhood letter association in its letter to Dougherty, "will both obey the wishes of local residents and save the taxpayers a bundle of money."

The vest-pocket park in the Highland area was made possible by a \$5,500 gift from the Anaconda Corporation. Following land acquisition costs of \$1,200 for two lots in the area and the proposed \$1,150 for the Creative Playground equipment, the park department would be left with \$3,125, the report continued.

The Highland association asked that these funds be used: "to purchase additional lots for the park, to install sufficient lighting and to construct a fence to protect younger children from dangerous traffic in the area."

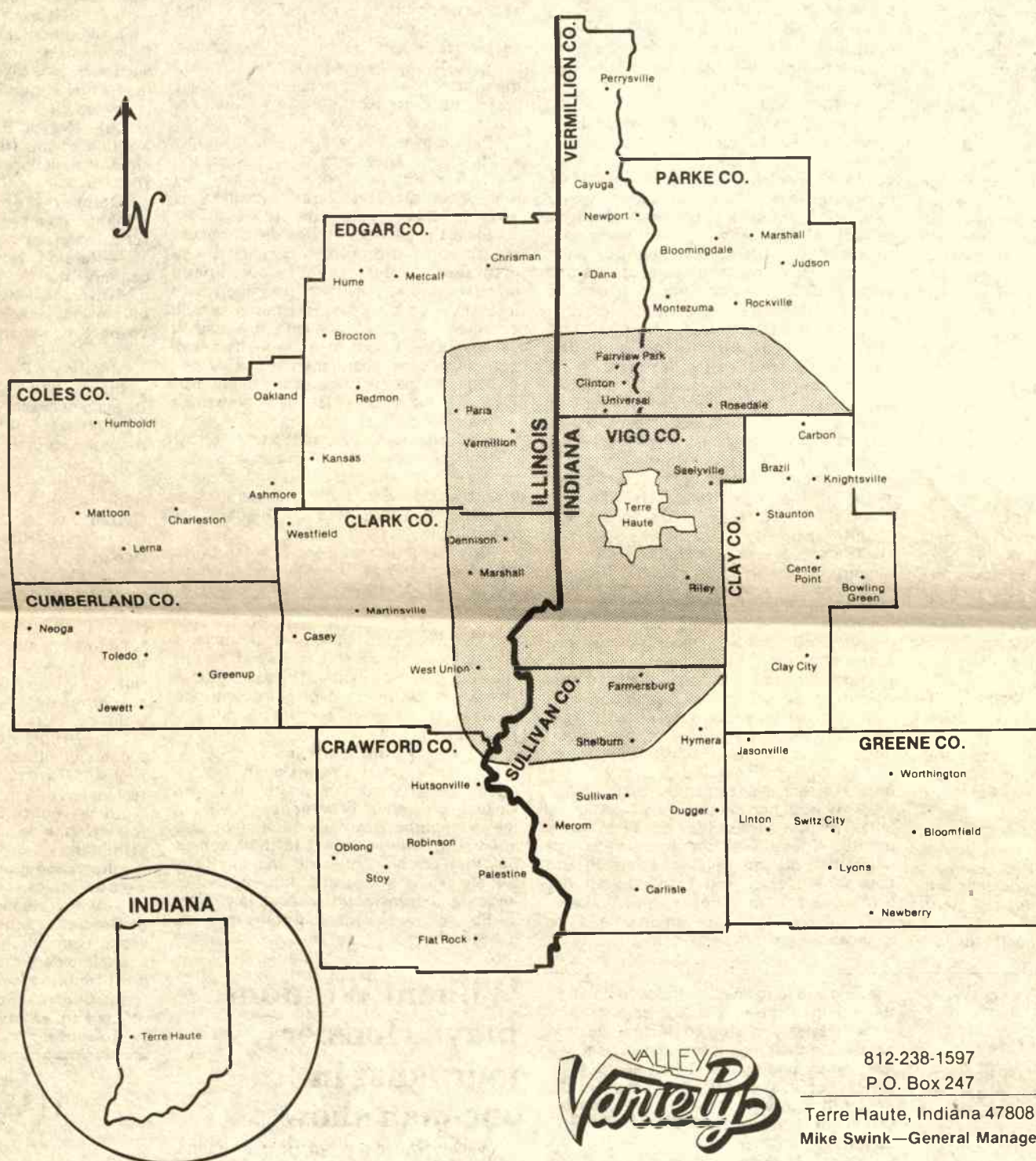
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Assoc (T.H.) Neighborhood group-

Neighborhood Problems Labeled Priority Issue

S AUG 29 1979

By GENIE FOWLER

Star Staff Writer

Police protection, vandalism control and speed and stop sign installation will be priority projects undertaken by the Krumbhaar Neighborhood Association.

Meeting for the first time Tuesday evening, more than 80 concerned citizens and interested persons attended the meeting at Greenwood School.

The purpose of the meeting, conducted by Larry McBride, was to establish what neighborhood residents wanted done in their area.

Projects the group discussed included problems with sewer and drainage, weed and mosquito control, street and alley cleanup and resurfacing, juvenile delinquency, vandalism, and police control.

Other matters of concern to the local citizens included the condition of the playground equipment and supervision at Voorhees Park.

No definite action was taken on the priority projects at the meeting, but it was decided to have Terre Haute Police Chief James Swift address the group at the next meeting.

Impressed with the large turnout, a Citizens Action (CA) spokesman said after the meeting, it was the largest neighborhood meeting the CA has had in two years.

Besides discussing neighborhood problems, the local group listened to presentations from Bob Payne, director of the Terre Haute Redevelopment Department and Susan Sampson, a member of the Highland Neighborhood Association.

Payne told the group department plans call for resurfacing of many streets in the Krumbhaar Association neighborhoods in addition to curb, guttering, and sidewalk replacement projects.

A new shelter with restroom facilities will be added to Voorhees Park (in the Association district) as

well as several other shelters to be placed in neighborhood parks in the city.

The Redevelopment Department also is in the process, Payne said, of purchasing equipment to coincide

with the recent heat loss survey conducted in the area.

Payne said detection and repairs to buildings with heat leaks will be a \$2 million savings in energy in Terre Haute.

Wigo County Public Library

Community Affairs File

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Neighborhoods 'Have Voice To Solve Problems'

By GENIE FOWLER

Star Staff Writer

SEP 27 1979

Providing "organizational and technical expertise" was the purpose of a neighborhood revitalization workshop conducted Wednesday evening by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Meeting at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2200 Wabash Ave., the workshop included Gretta J. Ellis, neighborhood and consumer affairs representative for HUD; Paul Edgerton, president of Near Northside and Highland Neighborhood Associations; Bob Payne, executive director of the Terre Haute Department of Redevelopment; Ledy Garcia-Eckstein,

HUD community planning and development representative, and Arzella Williams, education and training specialist, office of Minority Business Enterprises.

Representatives from the two neighborhood associations and area business in addition to city councilmen William Jarvis and Pete Chalos, also were in attendance.

Ellis told the group her office is relatively new to HUD and was created in conjunction with President Carter's urban policy to strengthen the role in urban revitalization.

"Hopefully our office can be the catalyst to bring about these neighborhood organizations," she said.

The Near Northside and Highland

Neighborhood Associations are two of 15 neighborhood groups in the state which are eligible for assistance from HUD.

Edgerton explained neighborhood groups were not new in the area, but through the efforts of the Vigo County Citizens Action Coalition, the groups have increased over the past two years.

The neighborhood groups "give a voice and vehicle to solve problems in neighborhoods," he said. They deal with issues ranging from traffic regulation to crime and arson, Edgerton said.

The groups operate on the basic premise "Neighborhood problems can best be solved by neighborhood people," he said.

Through neighborhood leadership and cooperation from the city and county administration many neighborhoods have been able to accomplish revitalization projects, Edgerton said.

A factor which makes Terre Haute associations unique in operations from the other associations statewide, is the local associations are funded by churches, he said.

The churches and their boards have been "critical" in the support and continuance of these neighborhood groups, he added. The groups operate on about \$12,000 a year which comes from the local churches.

Churches are active with neighborhood revitalization, he said because they see it as "a social ministry." He added, "A decline of a neighborhood results in a decline of

church membership which ties-in with the self-interest of the church."

Small businesses also care about neighborhood conditions, he said, since it directly affects their operation.

"Active involvement of people," is how he summed up the neighborhood organization formula for success.

Payne said there is "still a lot in the city we need to address our energy towards," adding the department's programs are going in the direction that it is interested and cares.

Garcia-Eckstein reviewed some of procedures involved in applying for Community Development Block Grants and stressed the necessity of citizen input with these applications.

Requirements for the development block grants stipulate that citizens must have the opportunity to participate in the development of the application, she said.

Williams outlined another fairly new program which is offered through the Indiana Department of Commerce.

The Neighborhood Assistance Tax Credit program offers tax credits to individuals, industry, small business or "anyone who pays taxes" for helping or donating to improvement in economically disadvantaged areas, she said.

The program has a total of \$1 million available in tax credits per year, she said. The program offers a tax credit of 50 percent of the contribution at the end of the year up to \$25,000.

Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library

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Liberty Avenue Residents To Conduct Survey To Determine Needs In Northside Neighborhood

By GENE FOWLER

Star Staff Writer

Residents in the Liberty Avenue area will be conducting a survey to see if it would be feasible to establish a neighborhood association and to get input into major problems and needs within the neighborhood.

About 25 persons in the area from Elm Street south to Chestnut Street and 14th Street east to 22nd Street gathered at the home of Bertha Fischer, 1501 Liberty Ave., Wednesday evening to meet with representatives from Vigo County Citizens Action and the Vigo County Economic Opportuni-

ty Act (EOA) Committee, Inc.

The two not-for-profit organizations are working in a cooperative effort to assist residents of neighborhoods in identifying their needs and providing suggested ways to meet their needs.

The local residents drew up a survey which asks whether there is adequate fire protection in the neighborhood, how does the resident like the neighborhood, and seeks input about problems with alleys, street and sidewalk conditions and property clean-up such as vacant lots and houses.

Also included in the survey are questions concerning crime, stray dogs and drainage and sewer problems in the neighborhood.

The survey will include the name of persons answering the survey and their addresses.

Residents attending meeting will conduct the surveys from 13th Street east to 25th Street and from Wabash Avenue north to the railroad tracks.

After the surveys are completed the area residents will then know what the issues are in their neighborhood, know who resides within the area, and will have

established boundaries for their neighborhood, the Citizens Action representative told the group.

The neighbors also will seek input from 10 persons at their church and will ask their minister to fill out the survey.

Surveys are being conducted now by residents of the "avenues" on the northside of Terre Haute and west of North Seventh Street, according to the representative.

Carol Northrop, representative from the Vigo County EOA, told the group the EOA office is in the process of developing a work plan to begin

during the next year and to set goals and priorities for the next two years.

The EOA Board is comprised of neighborhood representatives, public elected officials and special interest groups, she explained.

Mrs. Fischer, the Liberty Avenue representative on the EOA board, can bring to the board any problems or issues the neighborhood residents

The meeting at Mrs. Fischer's was the second in a series of eight meetings to get input into what type of work plan is to be developed, she said.

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Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library

Some Neighborhoods

Assoc. (T.H.) N.

Tempt Crime: Citizens

Neighborhood Group.

A woman looks out her front window and sees a man breaking into her neighbor's car and stealing a purse. She runs after him, catches him and gets the purse back.

The scene is not from a police or detective show. It is an account of a true situation which occurred recently in one of Terre Haute's northside neighborhoods.

The woman is a member of one of the city's six neighborhood organizations which have been formed within the past two years as Vigo County Citizen Action representatives to solve problems within their neighborhoods.

In a recent interview with spokesmen from the Near Northside, Highland, Central Southside and Krumphaar Neighborhood Associations they agreed crime is one of several major problems the neighborhood groups are working to combat.

Vandalism, burglaries, juvenile delinquency, noise pollution from nearby taverns or businesses, upkeep of vacant lots and needed demolition of condemned structures are some targets.

Juvenile problems related to drugs and alcohol were attributed to some of the neighborhood crime and vandalism.

"A lot of taverns in town will sell to minors which causes problems with teen drinking related to crime," one representative said.

Formation of "teen gangs" and in some instances motorcycle groups also plague some of the area neighborhoods.

"When parents themselves don't respect the law, how can we expect the kids to?"

S NOV 27 1979

Vacant houses, old buildings and dark streets offer temptation to young and old alike for wrongdoing, according to another spokesman.

"Vacant houses need to be torn down. It's a slow process, but while they're around, it is an open invitation for mischief. Neighborhood associations work all the time on this problem," one representative added.

The neighborhood groups, which also include Indian Acres Neighborhood Association and Farington Grove Historical District, have seen some action taken on various problems in their neighborhoods, but there is a long way to go.

Inadequate police patrols within the neighborhoods was a problem mentioned by most of the representatives.

Although patrols have been increased in areas brought to the attention of Police Chief Jim Swift, one woman said, "We feel we still don't have enough cars or men to patrol the city."

One resident added she would like to see the concept of "the cop on the beat" be incorporated in the

neighborhood areas. Mayor-elect Pete Chalos campaigned with goals to establish neighborhood beats in some areas of the city. Gerald Loudermilk, who Monday was named chief of police in the Chalos administration, said he agreed with Chalos' goals in fighting crime.

No amount of police patrolling can stop all crime, the residents realize, saying much of the crime problem has resulted because persons have lost respect for other's property. "It begins at home," one spokesman said.

Examples illustrating the point, were given by two neighborhood representatives who live across town from each other.

A man on the Central Southside said his neighborhood has had trouble with teens riding motorcycles down streets at excessive speeds. A teen was arrested by local police, he said, for going 70 miles per hour on a motorcycle he was riding on the sidewalk. The teen-ager was fined and the court ordered the motorcycle be taken away from him, the man said.

"The kid's parents got him another

Vigo County Public Library

Community Affairs File

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motorcycle and he's still speeding in the neighborhood," the spokesman said.

"When the parents themselves don't respect the law, how can we expect the kids to?" he asked.

On the other side of town, a teenager was severely beaten by a gang of teens this spring during the early evening in his own neighborhood.

The parents contacted the juvenile center and prosecutor's office and worked with the detective assigned to the case. "We might as well hang it up," the victim's mother said, explaining a woman who was summoned for help saw the group of teens when she answered her door, but since she could only recognize faces and not give specific names, she was not considered a witness, the mother said.

"It all boils down to the law," the Central Southside representative said. "The laws are written in many cases contradicting each other. The laws now protect the criminal and tie the hands of the police and are totally against the citizen. State and federal laws must be changed giving police more power," he said.

In many instances, the group agreed, trouble-causing youths have no respect for police and the law because parents "get the kids off with political pull."

"Why let a juvenile commit a grown-up crime time after time and then let him go?" asked one Krumhaar resident.

"Make him pay grownup penalties," he added.

What can be done about increasing

"The laws now protect the criminal and tie the hands of the police and are totally against the citizen."

crime?

One neighborhood representative said he would like to see a vigilante group serve as a deterrent to crime.

The other Citizens Action representatives present at the interview strongly disagreed with the suggestion saying where the city neighborhood areas densely populated, a vigilante group would not work.

"What does work," a Near Northside spokesman said, "are the crime watch and whistle alert programs."

Several of the neighborhood groups have had Police Chief Swift speak to their group, or Sgt. Jerry Hawk, director of the Crime Prevention Bureau in Terre Haute.

Through the crime watch, where neighbors watch out for each other and anything that might be suspicious in the neighborhood, or the use of a whistle alert, statistics show crime in these areas has declined, one spokesman explained.

Although some of the local groups have established crime watches, the whistle alerts are new to the area.

The whistle alert has been used on the East Coast, one Near Northside

representative said, and as a result, crime has decreased in that area. Neighbors are given shrill whistles which they blow if they spot vandal, burglar or something suspicious. Criminals become aware that after the whistle is sounded porch light are turned on and in most cases authorities have been summoned, the spokesman explained.

"The more the public knows then the more knowledgeable they become to what's happening. Pretty soon everybody's participating and you can really see a drastic cutdown in crime and vandalism," another representative said.

"We're (Citizens Action) the only people who have shown an interest in all areas of improving the city," a spokesman

"It's a matter of organizing and working together to get results," the representative said. Some changes are occurring, according to the spokesman, but it takes cooperation from the neighborhoods, city officials, law enforcement authorities and civic and governmental organizations."

Of Local Problems

People Now 'More Aware'

S NOV 27 1979

The six local Vigo County Citizen Action neighborhood associations are beginning to see some light at the darkened end of the tunnel they entered two years ago, according to neighborhood association representatives.

"Because of Citizens Action, people are becoming more aware of problems in the city. Neighborhood groups take a while to form, but as a group they have power," one representative said.

The all-volunteer CA members which range from young marrieds to the elderly, share a common goal of betterment of the community, according to a Highland Neighborhood Association member. "We're the only people who have shown an interest in all areas of improving the city," she added.

The Highland, Near Northside, Central Southside, Indian Acres, and Krumbhaar Neighborhood Associations and the Farrington Grove Historical District, have been formed over the past two years in order to achieve such a goal.

Neighborhood associations have presented a rather impressive cataloging of problems solved in their areas as a result of direct action by proper authorities.

Through the efforts of the Highland Association several vacant and condemned houses have been torn down, the neighborhood now has a local park. Streets have been paved and sewage and drainage problems have been corrected, according to Veda Snoddy, Highland representative.

The group also has established a neighborhood crime watch program in connection with the police department's Crime Prevention Bureau.

In addition, a massage parlor and a motorcycle gang were removed from the Highland area, after residents in the Citizens Action group conducted telephone campaign calling local police, city councilmen, board of health, the mayor and other officials

who could help alleviate the problem, according to a CA spokesman.

The group also worked with the owner of a local tavern in the area to reduce what the group called noise pollution and litter caused from the patrons of the tavern, according to Snoddy.

"We're proud of our community now since we have had some of these things done," she said.

Only a year old, the Near Northside group, has had several abandoned dwellings torn down, vacant fields have been cleaned up, and several apartment building yards have been cleaned of debris, according to Marjorie Trench, Near Northside representative.

She added the neighbors have noticed this fall that gutters were cleaned more often and the city picked up leaf bags in the area on a regular basis, which had been lax in prior years.

Sewer work and street resurfacing were major projects the Central Southside Neighborhood Association has accomplished the past year, said Doris Dicus, group spokesman.

Several stop and yield signs and two street lights have been installed in the area, she added.

"We still need to work on a neighborhood park and we have some drainage problems and are now in the process of trying to get more fire hydrants," she said of future projects the group is undertaking.

"We were annexed into the city in 1954 or 1955 and now in 1979 we are finally getting things done. When you ban together it does get the job done," he said.

She described her group as "just neighborhood people who have banded together."

The newest neighborhood association, Krumbhaar, also can see changes which have taken place in its area since forming in early autumn, Paul Winton group representative said.

The group invited Police Chief Jim

Swift to its second meeting to discuss area problems with him, according to Winton, and as a result they have seen an increase in police patrols in the area.

Other problems the group faced, which included a need for stop signs near Greenwood School and visibility onto Third Street which had been blocked by parked cars, also have been taken care of, along with street resurfacing, according to the representative.

"We still have a lot of vandalism," he said, "but I think with the new administration we will be able to alleviate some of the problems."

"We know the problems weren't created overnight and we don't expect to get them solved overnight," he said, but "because we have an organization in several neighborhoods we are beginning to be heard. As a whole group we represent quite a few people."

According to Terre Haute Department of Redevelopment Director Robert Payne, the neighborhood associations are "very beneficial in pointing out the deficiencies (of a certain department)."

Working closely with neighborhood groups the past two years, Payne said his office has always provided services to the city, but the groups have brought about an "awareness" of the department's function in addition to other city and county departments.

The redevelopment department has been involved in street resurfacing, sidewalk and sewer repair, demolition of condemned and vacant property, and works on the problems of noise and air pollution in the area.

"They've (neighborhood associations) placed emphasis on things that needed to be taken care of," he said. In many cases, the director explained, the problems were something that "just the neighborhood residents would have seen and may have gone unnoticed by a department."

Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library

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DO NOT CIRCULATE

By bringing about an awareness of a problem the neighborhood groups have been "real effective," said Payne.

Constantly in motion, projects the Citizen Action groups are now working on include a campaign for more street lights in the residential areas and a study into the feasibility of a LEAA (Legal Enforcement Assistance Administration) program in the city.

Studies conducted in the neighborhood areas indicate inadequate lighting in the center of a residential block and interference of lighting by tree limbs where street lights now exist.

The group plans to ask the city to install additional street lights in the middle of residential blocks and make sure trees are trimmed adequately near the existing lights.

"More lighting in the neighborhoods would be a deterrent to crime," a spokesman said.

Another project to combat neighborhood crime the associations are considering is the LEAA program. This federally funded program will seek to reduce crime against the elderly and shopkeepers, and in schools and public housing, according to information from Citizens Action.

Crime watch programs, escort services and arson control demonstrations are included in the program to help alleviate crime, Citizens Action reports.

Concern for neighborhood redevelopment and upkeep is on the upward swing, not only in Terre Haute, but throughout the nation.

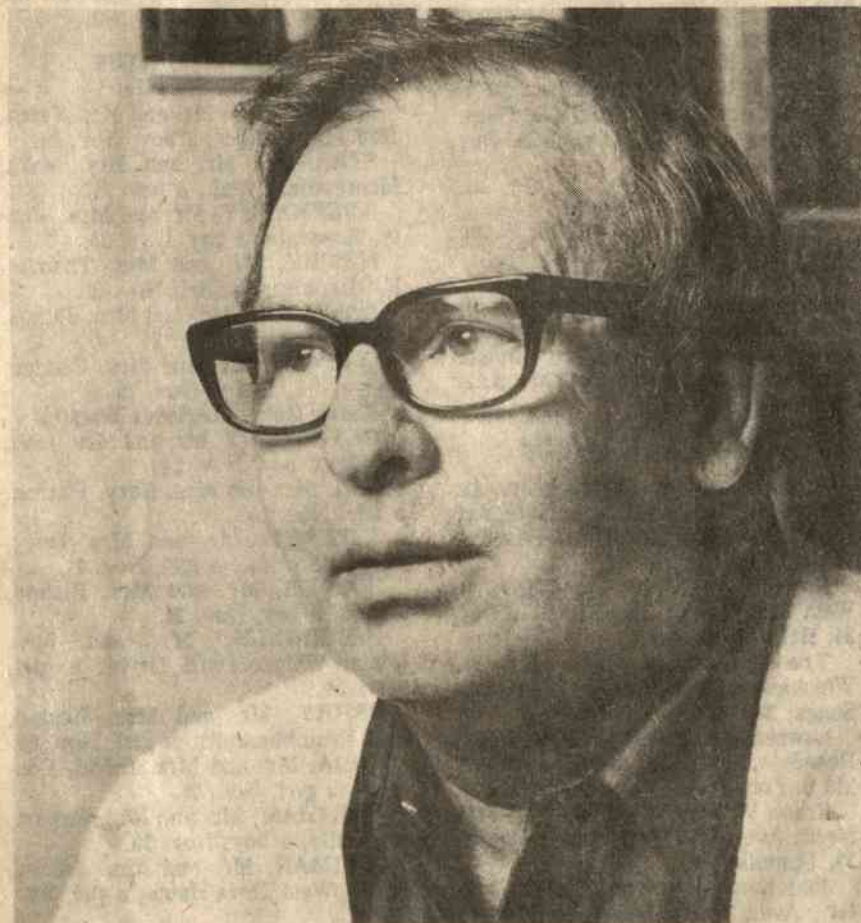
Fairly new to the Terre Haute area, the neighborhood groups have awakened this interest in community pride, and Citizens Action is currently in the process of developing two other neighborhood organizations.

Carol Northrop, executive director of the Community Action Program of Vigo County, who has worked on several occasions in conjunction with Citizens Action, reports the interest

in neighborhood problems exists throughout the city.

A series of eight public meetings conducted by her office to identify the needs and problems of low-income people in the community, showed considerable need for neighborhood improvements and many of the projects suggested were the same or similar to projects the organized neighborhood associations have been working on, according to information compiled from the meetings.

Alternatives such as using some of the vacant lots for public housing, maintenance by the lot owners, or other productive uses are some of the solutions she would like to see incorporated to help the neighborhoods instead of "destroying them," she said. Citizens Action groups have not seen overnight results to their problems, but the members agree by presenting their problems as a group they have power and those in charge are listening to their grievances.



Redevelopment Director Robert Payne

Local Crime Prevention Bureau Focuses On Combating Neighborhood Burglaries

Assoc. (T.H.)
Police (T.H.)
Stories Written By Genie Fowler
Photographs By Curt Willis

The Crime Prevention Bureau under the direction of Sgt. Jerry Hawk, of the Terre Haute Police Department, can be of help not only to neighborhood organizations seeking to combat crime in their areas, but to all residents of the city, according to Hawk.

Several of the Citizen Action neighborhood associations have asked Hawk to address their groups and explain the function of the bureau, he said.

Head of the crime prevention bureau since 1978, Hawk said the program was established to deal with crimes which had a main emphasis on residential burglary.

The bureau offers free services including a neighborhood watch program and operation identification, and will survey homes and businesses suggesting ways to burglar-proof the buildings, according to Hawk.

Hawk said he is "in favor" of the neighborhood associations "because it gets people together. It's the first time in a long time they became neighbors to deal with their problems all as one," he said. "All neighborhoods have about the same problems."

The director added many of the problems with which he is confronted while speaking to a neighborhood group, are not the responsibility of the police department, such as stop sign installation or weeds in vacant lots.

"The crime problem is rising not only here but everywhere," he said.

The sergeant puts part of the blame for increasing crime on the court system. "The courts have an awfully big deterrent to crime," he said.

When the program was begun, Hawk said, it was with the idea of establishing a place where "we would go out in the community and try to alleviate crimes such as burglary, rape and assault."

After evaluating the program with Police Chief Jim Swift, crimes added as priority issues included armed robbery, senior citizen protection, stolen cars and bicycle thefts. "We were trying to get a program with a main emphasis on residential burglary," he added.

"So much of it (crime) can be prevented," Hawk said.

A very effective program has been the free surveys conducted by the bureau, he said. A total of 11,137 homes have been surveyed with "excellent response," according to the director.

Out of the 300 surveys he personally conducted, a spot check showed 97 percent compliance of the recommendations made had been completed, he said.

The purpose of the survey, he said, is to go through a home or business and show the owner how to reduce burglary by reducing the opportunity

S NOV 27 1979
for crime.

Ways to burglar-proof homes are not costly and one can usually secure a home for about two-thirds to one-half less than what it costs yearly for homeowners insurance, Hawk explained.

The average person can follow the recommendations themselves for less than \$60 for an average home and it will take less than a weekend.

The surveys are conducted at the convenience of the homeowner and there is no cost for the survey, according to Hawk. After conducting a survey, the resident is not obligated to follow through with the recommendations, he added. Recommendations could include a sturdier lock, brighter outside light bulb or proper window latch, he explained.

Out of the 300 homes Hawk surveyed which had followed the recommendation, "as far as we know we've only had two burglaries," he said.

"It's much easier to have me out for an hour to conduct the survey than later to come to the house as a police officer on a burglary report," he commented.

Two other programs which several of the neighborhood associations have or are starting in their areas include the neighborhood watch program and operation identification.

Operation identification includes an engraver which will be loaned free to any local resident to mark property in order to identify it if it is ever stolen, Hawk said.

Coinciding with operation identification is the police department's Neighborhood Watch Program. Members of the program are given stickers to display on their homes or businesses which warn a possible burglar that property within the residence or business has been marked with the engraver for identification.

The neighborhood watch program is more than just the sticker, neighborhood association members point out. "Statistics show there are decreases of crime in areas with a crime watch," a Near Northside member said.

Attempted break-ins at two homes in the Highland Neighborhood Association area were seen by neighbors participating in the crime watch program and were reported to police. "As Citizen Action representatives, we got the squad cars on the scene with better response than before organizing as a neighborhood group," a spokesman said.

Although more neighborhoods are beginning to participate in a crime watch program, most Citizen Action members stressed there is a need for more community involvement in the crime watch and neighborhood watch programs in order to deter crime.



Crime Prevention Bureau Head Sgt. Jerry Hawk

Citizens' groups praise block grant programs

Community Affairs File

Associations, T.N. (Neighborhood Assns.)

T JAN 9 1980

Representatives of three neighborhood associations Tuesday afternoon commended the work done locally with federal Community Development Block Grant funds.

The commendations came at a public hearing conducted by the Department of Redevelopment, the agency that handles Terre Haute's applications for the federal funding that is administered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The Department of Redevelopment is in the process of seeking public input for its 1980 block grant application.

Another hearing was scheduled for this morning. Persons will have a chance to supply input on what they feel the city should apply for this year in public hearings at the department offices at 9 a.m. Jan. 17 and 2 p.m. Jan. 21. Another hearing has been set for 7:30 p.m. Jan. 24 in City Hall. The department offices are located at 417 S. Fifth St.

Shannon R. White, a representative of the Krumbhaar Neighborhood Association, said at Tuesday's hearing the block grant program has helped that southside area with sewer inlets, street resurfacing and replacing of broken sidewalks.

Joe Dermody, a representative of the Near Northside Neighborhood Association, said the block grant program has helped in his neighborhood with plans for demolition of 17 condemned structures.

Another citizen's organization representative, Ruth Campbell of the Highland Neighborhood Association, said the block grant program has helped that area with improvements in the vacant fire-trap structures.

All three persons thanked the persons responsible for the block grant project work, but indicated their neighborhoods still could continue to improve.

The block grant program is designed to serve low and moderate income areas designated by HUD.

Projects for which it has been spent include replacement of sidewalks, construction of curbs, demolition of condemned structures, street resurfacing, rehabilitation loans and grants, construction of two new fire stations in the city, and purchase of four new fire trucks.

Terre Haute is eligible for \$2.5 million in block grant funding this year, according to Robert L. Payne, executive director of the Department of Redevelopment.

Persons with questions about the program should contact the department at 417 S. Fifth St.

Community Affairs File

Wigo County Public Library

Community Affairs File

REFERENCE
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Shannon R. White

Mayor, Department Heads Tour Neighborhood, Spot Problems

Streets (T.H.)
Mayors (T.H.) Neighborhood Assoc (T.H.)
Krumbhaar
Street (T.H.)

S JAN 29 1980

By J. BLAINE AKERS
Star Staff Writer

It was a Pete Chalos campaign promise to talk to the citizens of Terre Haute in and out of his office. For the first four weeks of his term, the new mayor has spent most of his time in City Hall, but Monday he went outside.

Chalos and four members of his administration, Police Chief Gerald Loudermilk; Street Commissioner Dave Butts, Engineer Louis Glascock, and Administrative Assistant Kaye Hoole, braved the freezing temperature to walk several blocks of a southside neighborhood.

"This is one of our target areas for community development block grant funds," Chalos said in describing the neighborhood located between Voorhees Street and Margaret Avenue and U.S. 41 and Indiana 63.

Chalos says it is his plan to personally view city neighborhoods and discuss the needs of the people.

"These people know the problems of the neighborhood and, hopefully, this city administration will find answers to some of these problems," Chalos said.

The mayor said the city administration is particularly interested in providing safe neighborhoods, clean and passable streets and properly maintained sewers, sidewalks and curbing.

According to Larry McBride, 2510 Jefferson St., the Krumbhaar Neighborhood Association is concerned with acts of vandalism which have plagued the southside neighborhood.

"We've got some kids who are throwing tar on the cars in the neighborhood and gasoline has been taken from a neighborhood church," said McBride, chairman of the Krumbhaar Association.

McBride said parts of the neighborhood are in need of sidewalks and curbing, too.

Vandalism and prowlers also were a concern of Mrs. Marjorie Clark, 2410 Jefferson St. Mrs. Clark talked with Chalos about various neighborhood problems, but encouraged city officials to step up police patrols of the area.

There has been a flooding problem near 109 Helen Ave., where James L. Lusco claims to be near wit's end. The southside resident for several years has had a problem of a low spot on the road in front of his home and claims to have done everything possible to bring it to the attention of city officials.

"It's a real flooding problem. I've even put up a

area off and then people drive their cars in my yard trying to miss the water," Lusco said.

The street commissioner and city engineer spotted numerous problems while touring the neighborhood. Butts said he would take immediate action to replace a damaged sewer inlet at Thompson and Preston streets and was critical of some resurfacing work done on neighborhood streets. Glascock noticed incidents of work done in streets by utility companies. He said the streets were not restored to their original condition by persons working on underground utilities.

Loudermilk observed several cars with flat tires parked on city streets. The police chief said

vehicles must be properly licensed to park on streets and encouraged persons to park disabled vehicles off the street.

Chalos said he plans to make tours in other neighborhoods in coming months.

"I want the people to know this city administration is concerned about Terre Haute. We will do whatever is possible to provide the necessary services for our citizens. Sometimes we don't always have the money to do the things we would like to do, but we'll stretch our money as far as we can and we'll use our manpower and city equipment to best serve the needs of the people," Chalos remarked.

Community Affairs File

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Wigo County Public Library

Neighborhood, City Must Unite Forces To Improve Area

S APR 11 1980

By J. BLAINE AKERS, Star Staff Writer

Blight of a northside neighborhood is a major concern of city officials who Thursday toured the area and examined problems needing attention.

Mayor Pete Chalos and three other city officials walked an area bounded by 19th and 25th streets between Wabash Avenue and Locust Street. The area, according to the mayor, is a target area for improvement projects funded by Community Development Block Grant monies.

"We have about \$2.67 million in community development funds to spend this year and I would think about half of it would be spent in this area," Chalos said during his inspection of the neighborhood.

But, Chalos said a lot of the problems in the neighborhoods are because of neglect by property owners themselves.

"The city will do its job taking care of its property and I would hope the people themselves would take care of their own," stressed Chalos.

"About 80 percent of the problem I see would be solved by cleaning up and taking care of property. The city needs to tear down these condemned houses, sweep the streets, clean the sewer inlets and repair the sidewalks and curbs. Property owners need to clean the trash from their yards, pen up their dogs, remove junk vehicles from their properties and take better care of their homes," he said.

One interested taxpayer, Ralph Gallion, 2201 Locust St., talked with Chalos, City Engineer Louis Glascock, Street Commissioner Dave Butts and Administrative Assistant Kaye Hoole about the problems of his neighborhood.

"I'm not a radical person, but I'll tell you I'm fed up. I'd like to say I'm proud to live here, but just look at this," said Gallion pointing to two homes across from his business which were badly need of repair and whose lots were filled with trash.

Gallion said he built his business in the northside neighborhood 17 years ago and was proud to be a resident. He said the neighborhood has been neglected by city administrations as well as by most property owners.

"It's my opinion everyone should have a little dignity, but just look at this. I'd like to see a tornado hit this neighborhood," remarked Gallion.

Gallion also said there is a large problem with stray dogs. Chalos, during his walk Thursday, came to the same conclusion about stray animals and said the city will have to begin shooting more dogs if their owners don't take better care of them.

"People love animals, but these pets should be kept on a leash, in a pen or in the home. We have a definite problem with stray dogs and we're going to have to take harsher action to resolve the problem," Chalos said.

Many neighbors complained about slumlords, absentee landlords who neglect their rental property. Chalos wrote down addresses of rental properties which seemed to be neglected and said the building inspection office would investigate complaints aired by residents.

Numerous intersections were covered with mud and water because of poor drainage. The mayor said sewage department crews and city street workers have begun and are to continue cleaning sewer inlets and street curbs.

Curbs and sidewalks were a big problem in the area walked by city officials. Chalos said block grant funds would be used to construct new sidewalks and curbs in many areas.

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Community Affairs File

Avenues Neighborhood Group Seeks Demolition Of Northside Buildings

S APR 30 1980

By CHRIS COMBS, Star Staff Writer

A petition to demolish three buildings in the central east side of the city was presented to a representative of the Department of Redevelopment at the first neighborhood meeting Tuesday night of the Avenues Neighborhood Association.

The newly organized citizens action group originated the three-foot long petition, which was signed by at least 40 residents, to seek condemnation and demolition of buildings located at 1440 Chase St., 2448 Seventh Ave., and 1312 Second Ave.

According to Avenues committee member Sally Stokes, the addresses are locations of abandoned, run down and fire damaged buildings.

About 75 residents of the neighborhood attended the meeting where representatives of the city's Department of Redevelopment and Department of Building Inspection were on hand to explain their department functions and respond to audience concerns.

Dee Hugg, office manager for the Department of Redevelopment, explained the process of condemning and demolishing buildings was a slow procedure because of requirements and laws which must be followed.

Condemning the building, gathering ownership data, conducting hearings about the demolition or rehabilitation of the structure and other procedures mean up to a 12-week period before any action can be taken, Hugg said.

Hugg said 200 buildings have been torn down in the city since January and another 225 are on the list to be demolished.

Mark Elliott, newly named director of the Department of Redevelopment, said \$28,000 has been allocated for the area for demolition from the \$2.5 million application made by the city to the Department of Housing and Urban Development for the Community Block Development Grant.

Elliott said monies for improvement in the area will be available by June 1 and will include appropriations for street resurfacing, sidewalk construction and rehabilitation of housing.

Not all the \$794,000 earmarked for improvement in the area will be utilized specifically in the Avenues vicinity, Elliott added.

"But by identifying improvements that are needed in the

neighborhood, groups such as the Avenues can help determine where the spending will occur," Elliott said.

After the money is received, the Department of Redevelopment will be working with neighborhood groups and engineers to locate the problem areas.

Elliott said the next step would be a "design phase" in which engineers would contract and bids from construction companies would be solicited.

Following the selection of firms for construction, the improvements would be completed.

In addition to the question and answer session with department representatives, residents voted to focus the work of the Avenues on the prevention of crime.

The group also voiced concern for housing improvement, street improvement and a stray dog problem.

Documents

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Community Affairs File

Wago County Public Library

Assoc. (TH)

T MAY 15 1980

Officials meet with association

Members of the Central Southside Neighborhood Association Tuesday evening met with a Terre Haute Park and Recreation Department official and a city policeman concerning improvements at Brittlebank Park.

Discussion with Patrick Ralston, park superintendent, centered around the use of approximately \$20,000 in the Brittlebank Park trust for improvements at the park.

Also present to talk with association members was Sgt. George Ralston, commander of the police department's tactical units for high crime areas.

Park improvements, some of which can be implemented immediately, will include installation of two dusk-to-dawn lights, possibly by next week; posting of "no vehicles on the grass" signs; fence repairs; closing of the gates used by Park Department maintenance crews when they leave; and placement of park benches and of posts around the park to keep vehicles from the grassy areas, according to park superintendent.

He also reportedly told the group he would send

it a monthly update on maintenance and improvement work at the park and he was investigating installation of a parking lot at the park.

In his replies to questions about crime and vandalism at the park, George Ralston reported since his unit began patrolling the city's parks in March, a total of 203 violations had been cited with 97 arrests, most of which had been at Deming Park. There had been none at Brittlebank Park, he said. He also reportedly said the department will begin to check out the park and patrols will make several passes during their tour of duty at night.

Other concerns discussed at the meeting were those about sidewalk repairs and drainage problems.

Crime Topic For Avenues Group

By DON KEEGAN
Star Staff Writer

Assoc. (T.H.)
S JUN 6 1980

The Avenues, one of several local citizen action groups, met Thursday evening at Saint Ann's School with Sgt. Jerry Hawk of the Terre Haute Police Department Crime Prevention Bureau to discuss crime in the northside area.

After more than a dozen personal reports from those at the meeting of their own experiences involving various acts of vandalism, theft, violence and the rising cost of burglary insurance, Hawk spoke on simple methods of increasing home security.

Hawk reported the crime situation in Terre Haute is one in which 75 residential burglaries and reported each month, 60 percent of which could be eliminated if everyone simple locked their doors and windows.

He noted the THPD responded to 52,000 calls last year, 60 percent happening between 3 p. m. and 11 p.m. Currently, 60 percent of the police force works during this time period plus the special narcotics troop in action now.

During the presentation, Hawk demonstrated several locks and security devices including wide-angle door viewers. Hawk highly recommended the 190 degree model that costs \$5.09.

Hawk also said a good, strong

padlock can be bought for an additional \$5. "Crime prevention is not expensive," he said.

Other areas discussed included porch lights, which were recommended to be of at least 100 watts and doors, among which steel was preferred to solid or hollow wood that can be kicked in. Also, double cylinder locks were recommended for doors with glass windows in it less than 40 inches above the doorknob (the average arm reach).

The topic of garage breakins was discussed with advice for buyers of automatic garage door openers to purchase one with a two-step frequency to avoid the possibility of other door controls working on their garage.

Hawk encouraged the group members to fight crime by serving on juries when they are called, watching the courts, and simply taking the time to report crimes when they see them.

In an attempt to aid the Terre Haute Police Department and Fire Department, Hawk asked homeowners to buy stick-on address numbers for the alley side of their houses and garages. Also, the writing down of serial numbers of appliances, the engraving of social security numbers on appliances and the taking of

photographs of the inside of each room was recommended.

Also at the meeting, a citizen's action homeowners' survey, developed by eight CA organizations,

was completed and a progress report on the demolition of vacant buildings in the area was given. One, at 1312 Second Ave., is currently on a list of those to be taken down next.

Citizens unite to reach goals

T SEP 30 1981

By DONNA CHRISTENBERRY
Tribune Staff Writer

In a traditional American spirit of helping their neighbors, people in several areas of Terre Haute are forming or joining neighborhood associations in an effort to upgrade their areas and cooperate with city officials. Most have sprung up within the past five years.

The focus of the organizations varies, but all the groups have common concerns — such as improvements in streets, drainage and sidewalks; getting rid of abandoned houses; and keeping vacant lots clean.

Marc Engle of Vigo County Citizens' Action said that his group provides resources and research to the neighborhood organizations. Many, although not all, local groups are associated with Citizens' Action. Engle said his organization's main concerns are training people to conduct meetings, showing them how to communicate concerns to the proper officials and teaching them to discern issues in the community.

Originally Citizens' Action had to go out and talk to people, but now the group is getting calls from people who want to form neighborhood groups, said Engle.

Beth Brock, president of the Farrington's Grove Association, reported that the group was founded in 1976. The 80-square-block area includes many older homes and unique examples of architecture, she said. Because of its historical significance, the group wants to guide district growth to preserve the unique quality of the area and to limit uses of houses which would not be compatible with the area. Another of the group's considerations is strengthening controls which lead to an improvement of the design and rehabilitation of the sites.

Mrs. Brock said that because some old houses had been turned into multi-apartment units, utilities are overburdened and insufficient parking exists. She noted that the group is against spot zoning and goes to city hall when members feel zoning violations occur.

Editor's Note: Neighborhood groups have become an important part of the Terre Haute scene in recent years. Tribune Staff Writer Donna Christenberry takes a look at some of these associations in this report.

The group plans to propose an ordinance whereby any proposal brought before the city council affecting a certain district must first be signed by a councilman from that district.

The Highland Neighborhood Association has had the usual concerns of tearing down vacant buildings and improving the streets and drainage, according to Susan Sampson, chairperson of the group.

"I'm pretty content with the neighborhood right now," she said.

The group has also done a study on the feasibility of installing stop or yield signs at certain intersections. A member of the city police also gave a talk to encourage crime prevention.

A campaign to find out information about nursing homes was spearheaded by the Highland group also.

Mrs. Marjorie Trench, former chairperson of the Near Northside Neighborhood Association, said her group works closely with local government and seldom had any problem in getting government representatives to come to meetings and listen.

She noted that more than a dozen abandoned houses had been torn down, which was a major project of the group. Trash in the alleys also has been taken care of.

Alphabet Soup was a joint project of several groups, including the Near Northsiders. This pamphlet contained information on where to go for grants to improve a neighborhood.

The Liberty Avenue Neighborhood Association was formed in June of 1979. Bertha Fischer, the current president, said membership has grown from six at the first meeting to 47.

She claimed that since the group started having neighborhood patrols, crime in the area has been cut 35 percent. Currently the group is working to obtain ID cards for the patrol, and dues for the group are being figured to help defray expenses of patrol members, said Mrs. Fischer.

In the area of neighborhood beautification, she stated that the Liberty Avenue neighborhood had its first major cleanup in 1979, prior to the mayor's campaign. Liberty Avenue is one of the groups not associated with Citizens' Action.

The Liberty Avenue group is trying to aid the elderly and disabled to obtain grants to rehabilitate their homes. Mrs. Fischer said, "We're trying to give people what they want."

The most recent neighborhood group was formed last week. The Inside the Tracks Neighborhood Association meeting was attended by 30 area residents. Louis Glascock, city engineer, and Jim Chrisman, assistant building inspector, met with the people and discussed problems in the area.

Several other neighborhood groups, including one in Edgewood Grove, also are currently functioning.

Handwritten notes on the right margin:
Farrington's Grove
Near Northside
Liberty Ave
Near Northside

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REFERENCE

Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library

Bertha Fischer enjoying neighborhood

T AUG 14 1982

By SUE LOUGHLIN

Staff Writer

Neighborhoods which suffer from blight would do well to follow the lead of Bertha Fischer, president of the Liberty Avenue Neighborhood Association.

Formed in 1979, the 300-member group already has an impressive record of accomplishments, including formation of a citizens patrol, a telephone committee and several major cleanup campaigns.

A resident of her present home for 30 years, Mrs. Fischer has witnessed her once-thriving neighborhood deteriorate through combined forces of time, neglect and crime.

But recent efforts are reversing the trend — much to her satisfaction.

"I think we're on the road to great improvement," she said, describing the neighborhood as both "poor" and "working class." The rehabilitation efforts "give you kind of a thrill."

For example, she said residents used to be afraid to drive down Liberty Avenue. But the safety patrol, which operates from 10 a.m. to 1 a.m. each day, has changed all that.

The association is hoping to install signs at designated areas to inform travelers that they are entering a "crime patrol area."

The Liberty Avenue area has also benefited from the city's federally funded Community Development Block Grant program by way of curb, sidewalk, and street improvements, home rehabilitation loans and demolition of unsafe, old structures.

In addition, about one-third of the city's 60 Turnkey homes will be constructed in the Liberty Avenue area, which is bounded by 13th and 25th streets and Wabash Avenue and Locust Street.

Mrs. Fischer, 68, has been an active Democrat for many years and keeps in close touch with the city administration. She attributes part of the association's success to "a good relationship" with the city.

But rather than taking credit for successes herself, Mrs. Fischer maintains the neighborhood achievements have been a united effort. "We're one big happy family here," she said, minimizing the impact of her influence.

Nevertheless, that influence is obvious. Neighbors wave as they drive by. City workers arrive pronto to fix a hole in a sewer line. Politicians pay their respects at her neighborhood dinners.



During a Wednesday morning interview, five city employees from the street and sewage disposal departments were observed fixing the sewer cave-in, which occurred in front of Mrs. Fischer's home at 15th and Liberty.

"I got hungry and took a bite out of the sewer," she joked with city workers, who were digging up dirt, sawing replacement lines, and mixing cement.

Recently, the association matriarch — who is also a precinct committeewoman — has combined politics with recruitment. While polling the area for the November election, she added 200 members to the association's rolls, and hopes to get at least 100 more.

She estimates the neighborhood population at between 1,200 to 1,500.

While proud of the group and its accomplishments, she is also aware much remains to be done.

For example, the diminutive association president spoke of a lot at 510 N. 13½ Street where "the weeds are bigger than I am." Further south, another yard is full of cardboard boxes which could present a fire hazard.

Presently, she is pushing for a regulation which would require permits for yard sales. "I hate them," she said flatly, referring to a Liberty Avenue resident who has had a continuous yard sale since June 6.

But again, she emphasizes the "we" rather than "I." "We report as Liberty Avenue members, not as individuals," she said.

Admittedly, she's had to exert her "pull" on occasion. "I've had a few things where people would say, 'Have Bertha Fischer call in.' But now, the mayor has told department heads to work with the neighborhood association."

It seems to be working.

Last week, the city's building inspection department ordered several abandoned cars removed from the area, and also condemned some homes. "The mayor wanted us to go in that area," Tom Shoaff, building inspector, said. The department is making a concentrated effort to clean up the area, he said.

Shoaff said Mrs. Fischer and the Liberty Avenue group are easier to work with than certain other

neighborhood organizations. "I'd rather work with Bertha than with those who are acting out of purely selfish reasons," he said. "All she wants from us is to give it a shot."

The city administration works with all neighborhood associations, according to Blaine Akers, the mayor's administrative assistant. "Bertha's group is probably the most active," he said Friday. "She's a go getter... We welcome that."

Improvement of the northern section of town — including the Liberty Avenue area — has been a high priority under the Chalos administration, he said. "Money has been targeted here (Central Eastside, Highland areas) because it has suffered from years of neglect."

Mrs. Fischer likes association members to participate in some type of activity. "It makes them feel needed," she said.

To encourage cooperation and help neighbors get acquainted, she conducts various social activities, such as a brunch for the telephone committee.

Recently, the patrol group was taken on a tour through the county jail — with Sheriff Andy Atelski officiating.



'I GOT HUNGRY AND TOOK A BITE OUT OF THE SEWER' —
Bertha Fischer examines work done by city employees to fill in a
hole near her home at 15th Street and Liberty Avenue.
Staff Photos/Bill Williams and Bob Poynter

The Liberty Avenue Neighborhood Association is well organized, complete with a seven-member board and a membership fee: businesses pay \$15, and resident members pay whatever they can. It has two separate funds — one for patrol gas money, another for miscellaneous and social affairs.

Meanwhile, at least one other neighborhood association in the city has been critical of the activities and funding targeted to the Liberty Avenue area. But Mrs. Fischer scoffs at them. "We're all part of the same city," she said, maintaining that the Liberty Avenue area has been ignored for several decades.

Such accusations are "not fair," she said.

At a time when other Terre Haute neighborhood organizations are dormant, Liberty Avenue is growing and thriving.

"It takes a lot of personal time, perseverance and good hard work." She also believes that more and more neighbors are making the effort to take care of their individual properties.

The Liberty Avenue Neighborhood Association is not a political organization, Fischer maintains. "But it is mostly Democrats," she said, adding that Republicans are welcome, too.



SIDEWALK, STREET REPAIR — This tree stump has caused sidewalk problems at 18th Street and Liberty Avenue. It has

been among numerous projects targeted for improvement by the Liberty Avenue Neighborhood Association.

Community Affairs File T SEP 16 1982

Crime, deterrence major issues taken up by Liberty Avenue Neighborhood group

By SUE LOUGHLIN
Staff Writer

Crime and its deterrence were major issues on the minds of members of the Liberty Avenue Neighborhood Association, when they met Wednesday night in Ben Franklin School, 1600 Elm St.

Sgt. Roger Hall of the Terre Haute police department praised the association for its citizens' patrol endeavors.

"I believe in what you're attempting to do," he told the group of 50 persons attending. "The more eyes and ears we have, the more law and order we're going to have."

Bill Wilson, leader of the Liberty Avenue Citizens Patrol, said that car and home break-ins are the number one problem in the neighborhood.

Hall, who is in charge of the juvenile division, said FBI statistics indicate that 75 percent of serious crime in the U.S. is committed by juveniles.

"You're talking about a small percentage of the population committing a large percentage of the crimes," Hall said.

The sergeant encouraged association members to get involved and to report crimes which they have witnessed. "There are a lot of cases that fall by the wayside because people will not get involved."

Hall noted that in some respects it is easier to arrest a juvenile than an adult: for an adult, a warrant must be processed from the prosecutor's office, and the witness must present evidence which proves "beyond a reasonable doubt" that a crime has been perpetrated.

In the case of a juvenile, an individual who witnesses a crime can sign an information petition, which is forwarded to juvenile court.

Hall addressed several concerns of the group, including actions which can be taken against those who "disturb the peace."

While the city statute is somewhat vague, he encouraged members to call the police or the prosecutor's office. "If it (the nuisance) disturbs one person, it's unreasonable," he said.

But the best alternative, he said, is for neighbors to band together and apply pressure on those creating the problem. "The more pressure to bear on some of these people, the better off you might be."

In other matters, Bertha Fischer, association president, asked about yard sales — in particular, those which continue over a long period of time.

While there are no city ordinances regarding yard sales, Hall stated the matter has been brought before the City Council and city attorney. One measure under discussion would require permits and limit yard sales to two each year: one in the fall, and one in the summer. The permits would generate revenue for the city.

Hall told the residents to contact council members. "I'd make it a point to bug them about that," he said.

"I reminded three of them that they're up for re-election next year," Fischer said.

Hall also said that if there have been incidences of theft, neighbors should check to see if the stolen property turns up at any of the yard sales.

Association members also discussed implications of a new citizen arrest statute. "I've always been a little skeptical of citizens arrest. Unless you really cover yourself, you open yourself to a lot of problems," Hall said.

With regard to use of deadly force, Hall told members they had to have reason to fear for their life if they were to use deadly force.

Some of the residents registered complaints about police response to their calls. Hall urged them to "call someone else" in the department if they don't get the response they feel they deserve. "Some of the civilian radio operators don't always have all the answers," he said.

Hall also said that if police department personnel responded to calls in a sarcastic or uncooperative manner, the citizens had a right to ask for their name and badge number.

He suggested that the Citizens Patrol meet with police department officers to iron out any conflicts. "Police officers by their very nature are kind of covetous," he said. "If they feel you're trying to take the show, ... they might be a little covetous, a little jealous."

He later pointed out that is probably true of all professions.

During a short session before the talk, the association discussed the possibility of joining the Citizen's Action Coalition. In addition, Fischer appointed members to get information on how to incorporate the association.

The next meeting will be Oct. 20 at Ben Franklin elementary school.

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Associations T.N.

Community Affairs File

5 OCT 4 1982

Association track record good

By SUE LOUGHLIN
Staff Writer

At least one Terre Haute neighborhood association has a pretty good "track record" to date.

Inside the Tracks Neighborhood Association, in the area of 25th Street and Fort Harrison Road, has quite a list of accomplishments, according to Nita and Dale Hall, association leaders.

The organization has attacked such problems as bad roads and alleys, stray dogs and weedy lots.

Its latest project will be to clear up a 10-acre site owned by Templeton Coal Co. It maintains the area is a haven for rodents, a source of grass fires, an eyesore and a "playground" for youths who drive their cars there.

This past summer, the group approached Robert Pfister about the problem, since Pfister is attempting to sell the area for the owners.

The Halls said the area was mowed once during the summer when all work stopped. Since then the weeds have grown back and along with the weeds have come accompanying health hazards, among them insects, worms, rodents and trash.

The area also has a lake, where they say several drownings have occurred over a number of years.

The Halls said they have repeatedly attempted to contact Pfister. "He made an effort, and then he quit," Mrs. Hall said.

This time, the group intends to make its voice heard. If necessary, it will take the problem to the mayor himself.

"Why have a law (ordinance) that's not enforced?" Mrs. Hall asked, referring to the city's weed ordinance.

Contacted Thursday, Pfister said that if the group has a gripe, it should give him a call. "I'll pass the word to the owner," he said.

Earlier in the summer, Pfister arranged for someone to mow the area on behalf of the owner. "I'm sure the weeds have grown again. They might need to be cut."

He said he'd probably take a drive by the area to survey the situation. The land has been for sale for several years, he said, noting that it is an industrial site.

Inside the Tracks is part of Vigo County Citizens Action, which has provided resources and research for several county neighborhood associations.

Citizens Action has not met since Marc Engle, its director, moved to Chicago earlier this year.

Inside the Tracks includes about 100 homes and has a monthly committee meeting.

Formed last summer, the Halls believe that the neighborhood association concept is an effective means to get things accomplished. "By representing a group, we can get attention... as individuals, we could not," Hall said.

He said he prefers to think of the association as a "community" rather than a "pressure" group.

Generally, the committee calls a meeting of the neighbors only when a major problem develops. They estimate neighborhood attendance at 20 to 30 percent. "It's hard to get people together," Hall said. "Everyone has their own opinion, but they won't put their voice to it at a meeting."

Efforts to form a citizens' patrol fell through when no one would give money for gasoline. Crime is another concern of residents.

The Halls say they have been robbed four times in the past year, with property loss amounting to \$2,000. "Our insurance got canceled," Mrs. Hall said.

The goal of Inside the Tracks is simple: "We're trying to clean up the neighborhood... that's all we want," Hall said.

Inside the Tracks Neighborhood

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Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library

Northside residents voice support of protection group

T. FEB 17 1984

By Charles J. Maloof
Tribune-Star Staff Reporter

Although it may be several months before a neighborhood association and crime-patrol group is officially sanctioned on the city's northside, about 30 residents gathered Thursday night to voice their support for the protective organizations.

"Every street is now protected in our area," Dave Conder, organizer of the Northside Neighborhood Association, said. "We have people helping and looking after each other in their neighborhoods both day and night."

Boundaries that have been patrolled nights during the last three months by Conder and other northside residents are Locust Street to the south, Eighth Avenue to the north, 13th Street to the east and Seventh Street to the west.

Conder, who has had seven bat-

teries stolen from his cars, said a recent incident in the 1200 block of North 11th Street demonstrated the efficiency of his group's effort. Two men were arrested for breaking into a house after neighbors spotted them.

Charlie Compton, a resident in the 900 block of North Ninth Street, said a need for security was the reason he was attending the meeting. "I had \$3,100 in tools stolen from my car last Halloween. I think everybody in my block has had a battery taken from their cars."

Conder said he had been in contact with the Liberty Avenue Neighborhood Association and its crime-patrol unit for information about that operation.

Those in attendance Thursday voted to pay dues of \$1 a month per family to help cover expenses.

Conder said the group's next meeting is 6 p.m. March 21 in an office adjacent to the Great Scot store, 11th and Locust streets.

Vigo County Public Library

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Community Affairs File

Northside Neighborhood Association

Associations (WU) JAN 7 1986 TS
Neighborhood groups wants slice of dwindling government pie
Community Affairs File

The Northend Neighborhood Improvement Association sought part of the \$1.8 million Community Development Block Grant during a public hearing Monday in City Hall concerning neighborhood revitalization.

Dwindling funding to Terre Haute, coupled with a city that has been physically neglected for 50 years, may mean those residents will have a long wait for improvements.

Mark Blade, assistant director of Redevelopment, said CDBG money to the city has dropped from \$2.6 million in 1980 to an estimated \$1.8 million for 1986.

The association wants assurances it will be a part of the revitalization before the neighborhood completely deteriorates.

"It is a deteriorating neighborhood. It is an old neighborhood," said Pat Mansard of 516 Woodley Ave., describing an area bounded west by 14th Street,

east by 30th Street, south by Maple Avenue and north by Lost Creek.

"This area needs sidewalks, curbing, everything," said the city's deputy city clerk and NNIA president. "We've received none of the government money."

"My problem is we have neighborhoods all over the city that have similar problems," Blade said.

The Redevelopment Department has been "trying to revitalize [in five years] what's been neglected for 50 years," he said of city blight.

"We would propose there be less extensive revitalization in targeted areas," since money is drying up, Mansard said, "so others will get some crumb of the pie than all-or-nothing."

Blade said that is not necessarily feasible. "We can't do half of a storm-sewer system and leave it hanging."

Targeted for 1986 are:

- Continued improvement to the Highland area with construction of curbs, gutters and a storm-

drainage system on 15th Street from Elizabeth Avenue to Fort Harrison Road; Lee Avenue from 15th to 16th streets and Prairie Avenue from 15th to 16th streets. Estimated cost: \$375,000.

- Rehabilitating 20 homes on the central eastside, five in Highland and five in the corporate limits of Terre Haute. Estimated cost: \$300,000.

- Demolition of blighted areas is targeted for the central eastside and Highland. Estimated cost: \$50,000. Administration costs and unforeseen construction costs are estimated at \$65,960.

- Drainage improvements and widening the exterior road to the Fort Harrison Industrial Park. Estimated cost: \$1,718,000. About \$700,000 will come from CDBG money and the rest from Economic Development Administration.

Blade said the park project would keep 800 existing jobs and create 300 new jobs.